




People hold national flags of countries of the passengers who were killed at the crash site of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine, Friday, July 17, 2015. Residents of the Ukrainian village where the Malaysian airliner was shot down with 298 people aboard a year ago began a procession to the crash site on Friday, while the Australian prime minister remembered the "savagery" of the disaster by unveiling a plaque in Canberra that's set in soil from the place where the plane went down.


(AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)



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Associated Press

NIEUWEGEIN, Netherlands

(AP) — Her voice cracking with emotion, Asmaa Aljuned delivered a parting message Friday that her late husband never got to tell passengers on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 a year ago. "On behalf of Malaysia Airlines and the rest of the crew, once again we would like to thank you for flying with us," said Aljuned, the widow of the plane's co-pilot. "Thank you and have a nice day."

Hundreds of family members and friends of the 298 passengers and crew killed when MH17 was blown out of the skies above rebel-held Eastern Ukraine rose to give Aljuned a standing ovation at a moving Dutch commemoration service for the victims.

Memorial ceremonies in the Netherlands, Ukraine and Australia took place amid a sharp dispute over who was responsible for downing the Boeing 777, which was heading from Amsterdam to Kuala Lum-

pur.

Ukrainian and Western authorities say the plane was downed, most likely by mistake, by a missile fired either by the separatists or the Russian troops who they say back the rebels with weapons and manpower.

Several weeks before MH17 was shot down, separatist rebels had bragged about acquiring a missile system and had downed several Ukrainian military aircraft in eastern Ukraine, killing 49 people in one incident.

The rebels and Moscow say the separatists had no such missile systems at their disposal and that the plane was hit by a Ukrainian war-plane or a Ukrainian-fired missile.

But rebel denials of shooting down MH17 have been increasingly challenged by resident accounts, journalists' observations on the ground and the statements of one rebel official. The Ukrainian government has also provided purported communications intercepts that it says show rebel involvement in downing the



Rebel leaders Alexander Zakharchenko, second right, and Denis Pushilin, third right, attend a memorial ceremony at the crash site of the Malaysian Airlines MH17 plane near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine, Friday, July 17, 2015. In the eastern Ukrainian village of Hrabove, residents carrying flowers gathered in a church for a memorial service and a procession at the crash site where a Malaysian airliner was shot down with 298 people aboard a year ago. The ceremony was organized by local leaders and the Russia-backed rebels who control the area.

(AP Photo/Antoine E.R. Delaunay)

plane.

A preliminary report released in the Netherlands last year said the plane had no technical problems in the seconds before it broke up in the sky after being struck by multiple objects — a conclusion that experts said likely

pointed to a missile strike.

Residents of Hrabove, the Ukrainian village where the airliner was shot down, marched to the crash site Friday. Half a world away, Australia's prime minister remembered the "savagery" of the attack as he unveiled a plaque in Canberra as dozens of victims' families grieved.

The procession in Ukraine mainly consisted of women and children who carried icons and chanted Orthodox liturgical music, with the perimeter of the march guarded by men in Soviet military uniforms.

They joined about 100 other people, who carried separatist flags and those from the countries of the victims, to stand by a small stone at the crash site that bore a plaque saying: "To the memory of 298 dead, innocent victims of the civil war."

Some of the mourners held banners accusing the Kiev government of waging a war on them and likening the MH17 victims to those killed in indiscriminate shelling in the past year and a half.

Rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko, who arrived at the commemoration ceremony on crutches and surrounded by a posse of gunmen, accused the Ukrainian government of

taking down MH17.

Speaking in Kiev late Thursday, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the flight was the victim of a "terrorist attack launched from the territory occupied by Russian-backed militants in the east of Ukraine."

"It would not have happened without the participation and an order from top political and military leaders of the neighboring state," Poroshenko said in a televised address.

In Canberra, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott unveiled a plaque, set in soil that a police officer brought back from the Ukrainian field where the wreckage fell. The plaque listed 40 victims "who called Australia home."

"He knew that the place where MH17 came to rest was sacred and that a piece of it should come back to Australia," Abbott said.

Abbott and his wife laid a wreath at the base of the plaque. Dozens of family members of the victims followed, many in tears as they added their flowers alongside the wreath. Some kissed the bouquets before they placed them, others kissed their fingers and pressed them against the plaque.

Continued on Page 22

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US investigators looking into Tennessee shooter's travel



Douglas Debrs prays by a makeshift memorial outside the Armed Forces Career Center on Friday, July 17, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tenn. Counterterrorism investigators are trying to figure out why a 24-year-old Kuwait-born man, who by accounts lived a typical life in suburban America, attacked the career center and a Navy-Marine training center a few miles away in a shooting rampage that killed four Marines.

(AP Photo/Mark Zaleski)

LUCAS L. JOHNSON
KATHLEEN FOODY
Associated Press
CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) — The FBI said Friday that the gunman who opened fire on two military facilities in Chattanooga and killed four Marines had at least two long guns and one handgun, and that investigators were examining his international travel. Some of the gun purchases were legal and some were not, FBI agent Ed Reinhold said at a news conference Friday. He said investigators were also looking at all of his overseas travel of 24-year-old Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, who was killed by police. Investigators are trying to understand why the Kuwait-born man opened fire on the U.S. military sites and raised the specter of terrorism on U.S. soil. Abdulazeez did not appear to have been on the radar of federal authorities before the bloodshed Thursday, officials said. But now counterterrorism investigators are taking a deep look at his online activities and foreign travel, searching for clues to his political views or influences. The gunman opened fire Thursday at a Marine-Navy reserve facility. The FBI, which is leading the

investigation into the attacks, said he was wearing a load-bearing vest that allowed him to move about while carrying additional ammunition while he moved about. The U.S. Attorney in eastern Tennessee said the attacks were being treated as a terrorism investigation. Bill Killian said Thursday that investigators will "let the facts and the evidence lead us where it may." The relative, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person feared repercussions, says Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez was a "nice, educated guy." Abdulazeez met the relative for the first time during his visit to Jordan last year, and the two spoke for about an hour. During that time, the relative saw no hints of violence. The relative said his parents are both from the West Bank. The relative said the family are mainstream Muslims, not fundamentalists. The person says "they fast, they pray and that is it." Residents in the quiet neighborhood in Hixson, Tennessee, where Abdulazeez lived in a two-story home said they would see him walking along the wide streets or doing yard work. One neighbor recalled Abdulazeez giving him a ride

home when he became stranded in a snowstorm.

"It's kind of a general consensus from people that interacted with him that he was just your average citizen there in the neighborhood. There was no reason to suspect anything otherwise," said Ken Smith, a city councilman who met with neighbors Thursday night. Abdulazeez's mother, Rasmia Ibrahim Abdulazeez, filed a divorce complaint in 2009 accusing her husband, Youssuf Saed Abdulazeez, of beating her repeatedly in front of their children and sexually assaulting her. She also accused him of "striking and berating" the children without provocation.

Weeks later, the couple agreed to reconcile, with

the father consenting to go to counseling.

Abdulazeez graduated from Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, where he was on the wrestling team. Abdulazeez got an engineering degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2012 and worked as an intern a few years ago at the Tennessee Valley Authority, the federally owned utility that operates power plants and dams across the South. He was conditionally hired as an engineer at the Perry nuclear power plant near Cleveland and spent 10 days there before he was let go in May 2013 because he failed a background check, said Todd Schneider, a FirstEnergy Corp. spokesman. □

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Tens of thousands fear deportation as US-Cuba relations thaw

**ALICIA A. CALDWELL
CURT ANDERSON**
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The future is murky for tens of thousands of Cuban immigrants who have been ordered by immigration authorities to leave the country, with the United States and Cuba moving closer to fully restoring diplomatic ties, including re-opening embassies for the first time in 54 years.

As many as 25,000 Cubans living in the United States have outstanding deportation orders, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They include people who pose a threat to national security or have serious criminal convictions and are considered priorities for immigration enforcement agents.

Despite being an enforcement priority, those immigrants haven't yet been sent back to Cuba because the government



Attorneys Grisela Ybarra, left, and Monica Barba Neumann look over documents at their office in Miami. Ybarra and Neumann represent several clients who could face deportation.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

of President Raul Castro has not given them permission to return. It's unclear whether the Cuban government's position will change.

Sisi, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition that she only be iden-

tified by her nickname because of her pending deportation order, is waiting and wondering what the future holds.

A 50-year-old grandmother who moved to Miami with her family when she was 4, Sisi married a man involved

in South Florida's booming cocaine trade in the 1980s. By the middle of the decade she'd become involved in the business herself and eventually served 2 ½ years in prison, cutting ties to her brief life of crime in 1989.

Though she served her debt to society for the drug conviction, what she didn't know at the time was that her criminal record would prompt immigration authorities to issue a deportation order in 2000.

"I was young, stupid. It's hurting me," said Sisi. "It's coming back now, a lot." For decades deportation to Cuba has been complicated by the lack of diplomatic ties and the Cuban government's decision not to provide travel documents for most immigrants facing deportation.

A 1984 repatriation agreement includes a list of 2,746 people who had come to the U.S. in 1980 as part of the Mariel boatlift who should be deported. The mass migration from Cuba to Florida started when then-President Fidel Castro announced he would allow anyone who wanted to leave the Communist island nation. □

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Uber vs. de Blasio in fight over access to NYC streets



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks in New York. A dispute is simmering between the ride-booking service Uber and Mayor Bill de Blasio's City Hall over who controls access to the streets of the nation's largest city?

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A dispute is simmering between the ride-booking service Uber and Mayor Bill de Blasio's City Hall, an increasingly pitched disagreement playing out on smartphones, over the airwaves and in the press over a fundamental question: Who controls access to the streets of the nation's largest city? By the day, more and more Uber cars have taken to Manhattan's streets, summoned by smartphone apps to pick up passengers who enjoy their convenience and consent to pay additional surge pricing during peak hours. The de Blasio administration is attempting to put the brakes on the robust expansion, saying that the flood of new cars could further ensnarl Manhattan's clogged streets and arguing that the Uber system isn't equitable for drivers and residents. Uber, however, accuses the mayor of being in the back pocket of the yellow taxi industry, attempting to stifle

free enterprise and innovation while hurting the low-income neighborhoods that make up the core of his political support.

A pivotal moment in the feud could come as early as next week, as the City Council considers legislation that would put a cap on Uber's growth.

"We cannot afford to have unlimited, unregulated growth of Uber," said First Deputy Mayor Tony Shorris. "We have real concerns about congestion. "We are already seeing traffic speeds in Manhattan falling," said Shorris. "That is already having an impact on the city's economy, on air quality and potentially an impact on public safety. And at least one reason why that might be true is the enormous growth of Uber." The company has spread across the globe and become wildly successful, worth an estimated \$40 billion, while dispatching 25,000 cars on New York's streets, as opposed to 13,000 yellow taxis. It's also become a political flashpoint, as Republican

presidential candidates hail it as a model of the free market while some Democrats — including de Blasio — have expressed reservations. San Francisco-based Uber has howled at the de Blasio administration's attempts to slow its growth. Its leaders, including chief adviser David Plouffe, met with Shorris on Monday but, after the meeting failed to yield a resolution, the com-

pany sharpened its attacks. It debuted a "de Blasio" mode on its app that projects increased wait time if a cap is instituted. And on Friday, it aired a TV commercial that claimed the cap would hardest hit minorities in outer-borough neighborhoods who sometimes have trouble getting yellow taxis.

"Mayor de Blasio's plan to stop Uber will cost 10,000

jobs, hurt undeserved areas and make wait times for Uber cars skyrocket," Plouffe said this week. "It's not progressive and not right." Uber claimed that City Hall is acting under pressure from yellow cab operators who are worried about falling taxi medalion values — and who are significant donors to de Blasio and some council members. □

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Despite quick conviction, theater shooting trial isn't over

Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colorado

(AP) — Jurors only needed 12 hours to reject the idea that James Holmes was legally insane when he slipped into a Colorado movie theater's midnight premier of the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises," and opened fire killing 12 and injuring scores of others. Now, the trial enters a new phase that is certain to take much longer, as the jury decides whether Holmes should die for his crimes. Starting next week, jurors will hear testimony about Holmes' mental illness and his childhood. Prosecutors may counter with even more heartbreaking accounts from victims, ranging from those Holmes

maimed to the father of his youngest victim, a 6-year-old girl who died in the 2012 attack.

There was a muted, heart-broken sense of relief Thursday afternoon following Holmes' conviction on 165 counts of murder, attempted murder and other charges. Victims wept and comforted one another in the courtroom during the hour-long recitation of each verdict, holding hands and nodding their heads with satisfaction when their loved one's names were read.

"We're all really happy he's guilty, but we're all really sad to be here," said Katie Medley, whose husband, Caleb, uses a wheelchair after being shot in the head



Tom Teves, who lost his son, Alex, in the 2012 Aurora, Colo., theater massacre, speaks to members of the media after jurors convicted shooter James Holmes in the killing spree as the trial concluded Thursday, July 16, 2015, in Centennial, Colo. Holmes could get the death penalty for the massacre that left 12 people dead and dozens of others wounded.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

during the attack. The verdict came after 2 1/2 years of legal skirmishing between prosecutors and Holmes' public defenders and 11 months of grueling testimony. The upcoming sentencing phase could easily take another month.

"I'm glad we're at this point, but at the same time, we have a long way to go," said Marcus Weaver, who was injured in the attack

and whose friend Rebecca Wingo was killed.

Experts say the sentencing phase could prove even more emotionally wrenching as survivors describe the impact of the shooting on their daily lives. It will be a harder decision for jurors, who will have fewer instructions to guide them, said defense attorney Karen Steinhauer, who is not involved in the Holmes case. That jurors swiftly rejected

Holmes' insanity defense doesn't mean they'll come to a speedy conclusion about his punishment.

"They're going to have to decide, for someone who is mentally ill, if a death sentence is the right punishment," she said. "It ends up being a much more personal decision."

If just one juror disagrees with a death sentence, Holmes, 27, will be sent to prison for life. □

Police: 2 dead, 3 wounded in north Maine shootings

ALANNA DURKIN

Associated Press

LEE, Maine (AP) — State police say a former convict shot five people, two of them fatally, during a rampage across several northern Maine towns before being captured.

They say a man was assaulted and guns were stolen before the shootings

began in three different communities. Police also believe the suspect set fire to a barn.

Investigators say 35-year-old Anthony Lord was arrested without incident Friday at a family member's home in Houlton. They say a woman who was with him wasn't harmed.

Police say Lord faces mur-

der charges. They are searching for a motive for the overnight shootings that left two men dead and two men and a woman injured. They didn't identify the victims.

Lord has a criminal record that includes convictions for a sex crime, domestic assault, criminal threatening and assault. □

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US Financial Front: Apartment construction drives homebuilding surge over June

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. builders broke ground on apartment complexes last month at the fastest pace in nearly 28 years, as developers anticipate that recent jobs gains will launch a wave of renters.

The Commerce Department said Friday that housing starts in June climbed 9.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.17 million homes. All of that growth came from a 28.6 percent surge in multi-family housing that put apartment construction at its highest rate since November 1987. Starts for single-family houses slipped 0.9 percent last month.

The gains show that what had been a sluggish construction sector is now running on economic adrenaline. Strong job growth and a rebounding economy have increased the numbers of buyers and renters

searching for homes, while gradually rising mortgage rates have spurred homeowners to finalize deals.

"The residential market recovery is here, and it is strong and sustainable," said Peter Ciganik, managing director at real estate investor GTIS Partners.

Housing starts jumped 35.3 percent in the Northeast because of apartments, while climbing 13.5 percent in the South. Home construction slumped in the Midwest and West in June. Nationwide, housing starts have risen 10.9 percent year-to-date.

Over the past 12 months, employers have added 2.9 million jobs, meaning that there are that many more people with paychecks to spend across the broader economy.

The impact of those job gains and the unemployment rate dropping to 5.3 percent has surfaced in housing, where demand



A worker carries a load of lumber at a new home construction site in Mechanicsville, Va. The Commerce Department reported on home construction during June on Friday, July 17, 2015.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

is outpacing the supply of homes and creating more pressure to build houses

and apartments.

The market for new homes for sale had just 4.5 months

of supply in May, compared to 6 months in a healthy market. □

Rising gasoline prices pushed inflation up modestly in June

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rising gasoline prices pushed inflation up modestly in June, leaving overall consumer prices higher than they were a year earlier for the first time since December.

Economists say the tick up in consumer prices makes it more likely the Federal Reserve will end a policy of keeping short-term interest rates near zero for more than six years. "Rebounding inflation combined with solid employment growth will likely lead the Fed to raise rates in September,"

said Gregory Daco, head of U.S. macroeconomics at Oxford Economics.

The Labor Department said Friday that its consumer price index rose 0.3 percent last month. Prices at the pump rose 3.4 percent in June on top of a 10.4 percent increase in May. An outbreak of avian flu drove egg prices up 18.3 percent in June, but overall food prices rose just 0.3 percent. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation rose 0.2 percent last month.

The June numbers were about what economists had expected. □



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Greek bailout moves ahead after Germany gives its backing

ELENA BECATOROS

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece's proposed bailout cleared further key hurdles Friday after German lawmakers overwhelmingly gave their backing to another financial rescue and the European Union said it would release a short-term loan to ensure Athens avoids a debt default.

The developments, along with the Greek parliament's approval early Thursday of creditor-demanded austerity measures, contributed to a positive initial assessment from Europe's bailout fund. In a statement, the European Stability Mechanism said it approved a "decision to grant, in principle, stability support to Greece in the form of a loan program."

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, meanwhile, reshuffled his cabinet after a rebellion earlier this week in his



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, second right, casts her vote during a meeting of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, Friday, July 17, 2015. German lawmakers voted on a third bailout package for Greece on Friday. (AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

party's ranks over the austerity measures, replacing two ministers who voted against him and changing

another eight ministers and deputy ministers.

Though the broad outlines of the Greek bailout were

agreed Monday by the eurozone's 19 leaders, the ESM's decision formally kick-starts the process by which Greece begins negotiating the details.

The discussions, which are expected to last four weeks, will include economic targets and reforms deemed necessary in return for an anticipated 85 billion euros (\$93 billion) over three years.

"This agreement offers a chance to put the Greek economy back on track," said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the eurozone's top official who also chairs the ESM board. "It's not going to be easy. We are certain to encounter problems in the years to come. But I believe we will be able to resolve them."

In recent weeks the Greek economy, which is around a quarter smaller than it was back in 2008 following a brutal recession, has suffered a number of shocks with the country's euro future on the line.

The hope now is that the banks, which have been shut for the past three weeks, will reopen soon — possibly as early as Monday — and that the paltry 60-euros a day withdrawal limit at ATMs will be raised. The first big development Friday was the news that

German lawmakers, in the wake of their Austrian counterparts, voted 439-119 in favor of opening detailed discussions on the bailout package. Chancellor Angela Merkel had warned them Greece would face chaos without a deal.

That was later followed by confirmation that the 28-country EU will release a loan of 7.16 billion (\$7.7 billion) in short-term cash by Monday, when it has a 4.2 billion-euro debt repayment due to the European Central Bank.

The funds, which will come from a long-dormant EU program called the European Financial Stabilization Mechanism, will also help Greece clear arrears with the International Monetary Fund, and with the Bank of Greece.

The loan will be for three months and disbursed over two instalments, and comes a day after the ECB raised emergency liquidity assistance to Greek banks. "What we're witnessing is European solidarity in action," said Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU Commission's vice president for the euro. "Politicians across 27 countries have invested their own political capital to speed through national decisions to shoulder Greece at this difficult time for the country," he added. Germany is likely to continue playing a key role in Greece's future as it is the largest single bailout contributor. It has taken a hard line, insisting on stringent spending cuts, tax hikes and wide-ranging economic reforms in return.

"The principle ... of responsibility and solidarity that has guided us since the beginning of the European debt crisis marks the entire result from Monday," Merkel told the special session of Parliament. The alternative to an agreement, she added, "would not be a time-out from the euro that would be orderly ... but predictable chaos."

Merkel will have to return to Parliament to seek approval for the final deal when the negotiations are concluded. □



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Oslo university admits Breivik to study program

JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press
COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Convicted mass killer Anders Behring Breivik has been admitted to the University of Oslo's political science program, although he will stay in his cell to study, the university's rector said Friday.

The 36-year-old right-wing extremist is serving 21 years in prison for killing 77 people in politically motivated bomb-and-gun massacres in 2011. The sentence can be extended when it expires.

"All inmates in Norwegian prisons are entitled to higher education in Norway if they meet the admission requirements," university rector Ole Petter Ottersen said Friday in an email to The Associated Press. Breivik's application was rejected two years ago after the university said his qualifications were insufficient. That submission stirred a debate in Norway over whether someone convicted of such a horrific crime should be considered for higher education.

Norway has a rehabilitation-focused justice system aimed at helping inmates prepare for life after they get out, which includes giving them the right to pursue higher education. Before the 2011 attacks, Breivik attended high schools in Norway and took online course in small business management. But he had not completed secondary education, which he has been working on since his 2012 conviction. "He then didn't meet the admission requirements. Now his grades live up to what is expected," university spokeswoman Marina Toffting said. □

Greece: Firefighters battle blazes; save 200 trapped on beach

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek firefighters battled large fires in the south, on the outskirts of Athens and on an island near the capital Friday as flames fed by strong winds forced the evacuation of villages and summer camps. About 200 people trapped by one fire were plucked off a beach by rescue boats.

In all, firefighters were battling 59 fire fronts, mainly in southern Greece and near the capital. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said Greece had requested help from his country's army and air force, as well as the European emergency response center, to fight the blazes. France was sending two Canadair firefighting aircraft and a Beechcraft reconnaissance plane along with expert teams, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said. The aircraft and teams were to fly to Greece on Saturday. France helped Greece fight forest fires in August 2014.

Tsipras was holding an



A helicopter flies over a fire on the mountain of Ymittos in the eastern suburbs of Athens on Friday, July 17, 2015. Greek firefighters battled the large brush fire burning across Ymittos hill, as strong winds helped the flames devour parts of the verdant hillside popular with day-trippers.

(AP Photo/Petros Karadjias)

emergency meeting Friday night with the head of the armed forces, the defense and interior ministers, the head of the civil protection agency and the head of Greece's secret services. Defense Minister Panos Kammenos said it was likely that at least some of the fires were the result

of arson, and ordered the armed forces to patrol forests and woodlands across the country as a preventative measure.

"All forces are on alert," Tsipras said, noting that the hot, dry and windy conditions were making firefighting more difficult.

The most severe fire was a

massive blaze in the Lakonia area in the Peloponnese, southern Greece, where at least three villages were evacuated.

Rescue boats battled gale-force winds to reach about 200 people who had taken refuge in a bay, ferrying them to safety, the coast guard said. □

3 French arrested in IS-inspired plan to attack base

PARIS (AP) — Three young men plotted an attack on a French military base after receiving orders from an Islamic State group contact in Syria to strike in France, prosecutors said Friday. The accounts investigators say they gave underscore the role of the Islamic State organization's savvy social media machine in recruiting Western youth. All three had high school diplomas and quickly radicalized watching grisly IS group videos, the prosecutor's of-

fice said.

The men, arrested Monday, went before an investigative judge Friday. The prosecutor's office opened an investigation June 23 on suspicion they were preparing terrorist acts to harm people.

More than 2,500 potentially radicalized youth have been flagged in France by worried families, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said this week, and 1,850 others have traveled to Syria or are trying to.

The prosecutor's statement said the three men told investigators they planned a late December or early January attack on the Mediterranean military post Fort Bear, where Djebri A., 23, a former Marine, once worked. The others, Ismael K., 17, and Antoine F., 19, said the plan was to decapitate the base chief, which Djebri A. denied.

Djebri A. told investigators he felt he was on a mission for the Islamic State group and wanted to answer the

order to attack a site in France, the statement said. He left the Marines in 2014 after less than a year for failure to adapt to military life.

The three intended to travel to Syria but Ismael K. raised suspicions and was questioned in October. A month later — at his mother's request — he was banned from leaving France, the statement said.

The three, who met online, communicated through an encrypted program. □

Yemen government says it is consolidating control of Aden

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemeni government troops were consolidating control of the southern port city of Aden on Friday, with only a few "terrorist pockets" of Shiite rebels remaining to be cleared out, according to a Yemeni government spokesman.

Ragah Badie said Friday that Aden was under a security lockdown as troops try to capture a senior rebel leader, Abdul-Khaliq al-Houthi. Aden's port, he said, will be opened today to receive humanitarian aid ships that are much needed in the conflict-torn nation, where over 80 percent of the population needs assistance, according to the United Nations. Some Yemenis who have fled the fighting, which intensified in March when the Saudi-led coalition launched its campaign against the rebels, are now

returning to their homes in Mualla and Crater, according to security officials and eye witnesses.

Meanwhile, an exiled official in Saudi Arabia denied reports that exiled Yemeni ministers had landed in Aden, adding that the situation is still "too fragile" to set a return date for them now.

Military officials also said government forces will begin pushing north within two days into territory controlled by the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis. Thus far into the Saudi-backed Yemeni government offensive known as Golden Arrow, at least 150 people have been killed, according to medical sources and government and Houthi officials.

The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters. Yemen's conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthis and



Yemeni fighters against Shiite rebels ride military vehicles on a street in the port city of Aden, Yemen. Yemeni government troops were consolidating control of the southern port city of Aden on Friday, with only a few "terrorist pockets" of Shiite rebels remaining to be cleared out, according to a Yemeni government spokesman. (AP Photo/Abo Muhammed)

troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against an array of forces, including southern separatists, local and tribal mili-

tias, Sunni Islamic militants as well as loyalists of exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is backed internationally.

The United Nations said Tuesday that the civilian death toll in more than three months of violence has risen to 1,670. □



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Clashes at Islamist march in Egyptian capital kill six

BRIAN ROHAN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Clashes between Egyptian security forces and Muslim Brotherhood supporters killed at least six people on Friday, after demonstrations in Cairo at the start of a major religious holiday weekend descended into violence. It was the deadliest toll at Islamist protests for months in the capital, and came as part of a violent crackdown on the Brotherhood, which authorities have banned and labelled a terrorist organization. The fighting erupted when hundreds of Brotherhood supporters staged a march in the Talibiya neighborhood of Giza, which is part of greater Cairo, after morning prayers following the end of the holy month of Ramadan and the start of the major Muslim holiday, Eid al-Fitr. Skirmishes broke out between marchers on one side and local residents and police on the other. The violence quickly escalated

with live ammunition and shotguns, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. Brotherhood supporters took to social media to accuse security forces of firing at peaceful protesters, while the Interior Ministry and police officials said in a statement that they were fired upon by armed protesters. A video circulating on social media showed a crowd of young demonstrators in a standoff with police, shooting fireworks in their direction and burning flares before fleeing as explosions are heard. It could not be independently verified but it corresponded to events reported by The Associated Press.

The ministry said in a statement that five demonstrators were killed in the Talibiya clashes, and one in the nearby town of Nahia, an Islamist stronghold where another group of protesters clashed with police. A total of 15 people were wounded. □

Multiple suicide bombs kill 64 in northeastern Nigeria

**MICHELLE FAUL
ADAMU ADAMU
Associated Press
DAMATURU, Nigeria (AP)**

— Nigeria's Islamic extremists chose open-air praying grounds for suicide bombings Friday, one of the holiest days of the Muslim calendar. At least 15 people died as they prepared to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in northeastern Damaturu, said police.

Nigerians who usually turn out in their finest robes to pray on the holiday stayed home in fear in Damaturu and Gombe town, where 50 people shopping for the holiday at the main market died in two bomb blasts late Thursday night, according to the National Emergency Management Agency.

One of the bombers was a child who looked about 10 years old and the other was an elderly woman, said the military in a statement. Nigeria's homegrown Boko Haram extremist group has used many women and girl bombers in recent weeks, raising fears the insurgents are turning some of their hundreds of captives into weapons. A military bomb disposal expert has told The Associated Press that almost all the female bombers are strapped with ex-

plosives that are remotely detonated.

"No amount of terrorist acts would deter our resolve to stamp out terrorism and insurgency in our fatherland," said a statement from army spokesman Col. Sani Kukasheka Usman.

But Nigerians are weary of the military's promises to halt the 6-year-old insurgency that has killed more than 13,000 people. Amnesty International puts the toll at some 20,000 to include 8,000 people it charges have died in military detention — some shot, some of untreated wounds from torture, others just starving or asphyxiated to death in overcrowded cells.

"Our military keep making promises and the bombs keep exploding. I'm tired," one Nigerian woman wrote on Twitter.

The upsurge in violence comes after the May 29 inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim whose election pledge was to defeat the extremists.

Buhari is flying to Washington D.C. for a Monday meeting with President Barack Obama that is expected to focus on how the United States can help the fight against Boko Haram.

The group captured world attention with the mass



Nigeria Muslims attend Eid al-Fitr prayer in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday July 17, 2015, marking the end of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. Nigeria's Islamic extremists chose open-air praying grounds for suicide bombings Friday, one of the holiest days of the Muslim calendar. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

kidnapping in April 2014 of 274 mainly Christian schoolgirls in the remote town of Chibok. It sparked outrage and an international

"#BringBackOurGirls" campaign that reached the White House. U.S. first lady Michelle Obama said in a radio address in May 2014

that she and her husband are "outraged and heartbroken" over the mass abduction. To date 219 girls remain missing. □

Colombia to begin large-scale excavation of new mass grave

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombian officials will soon begin exhumation of a mass grave that could prove to be the largest in the country's history, authorities said Friday.

The grisly work of unearthing the mass grave in Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city, will begin on July 27 and will likely take months to complete. The bodies are believed to be the result of years of fighting among right-wing paramilitaries, leftist guerrillas and drug traffickers.

Workers could discover more than 100 bodies, according to national prosecutor's office spokeswoman Caterina Heyck, though it's hard to know in advance what they will find.

She said it could be "the largest" judicial exhumation in Colombia's history. Officials received information on the mass burial site from demobilized paramilitary fighters.

The country's five-decade long civil war has left the landscape pockmarked with unmarked grave. In recent years, officials have exhumed thousands of bodies and attempted to return the remains to family members. Workers use DNA to match bodies with people reported missing.

The government has been negotiating with the guerrilla group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in Havana for two and a half years to end the conflict. □

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Argentine Jews reject any dialogue with Iran in bombing

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentine Jewish leaders on Friday renewed denunciations of a government plan to work with Iran to investigate Argentina's worst terrorist attack. The 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association killed 85 people and remains unsolved.

Family members of the victims commemorated the 21st anniversary of the attack Friday, a day before the July 18 anniversary. Former Iranian officials have been on an Interpol capture list for years, but Argentine prosecutors have never been able to question them. Iran has long denied any role in the bombing.

"We ask the government to take courageous stance and intensify the demands so that the accused Iranians can someday face justice," Ariel Cohen, president of the federation of Jewish communities, said at the event held at the reconstructed Jewish center. Argentina struck a 2013 accord with Iran to solve

the attack, but Jewish groups have criticized it, saying Tehran has failed to turn over suspects. The joint "truth commission" was approved by Argentina's Congress but it has not been implemented because two Argentine courts ruled it unconstitutional, and it's now under review. "We can't strike a deal

with the murderers," Cohen said. Just days before he was found dead on Jan. 18, Alberto Nisman, the chief prosecutor investigating the case, accused President Cristina Fernandez of helping shield the Iranian officials allegedly behind the bombing. Federal judges have thrown out the case against Fernandez. □

Analyst: probe could taint image of Brazil's ex-president

STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — An investigation into allegations of influence peddling by Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva could taint his image and weaken the ruling Workers' Party, analysts said Friday. The Federal Prosecutor's Office announced the investigation on Thursday — apparently the first time the popular ex-president has been linked to a criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office said it's investigating whether Silva was paid to sway foreign leaders into awarding inflated contracts to the Odebrecht construction firm and push Brazil's state development bank to give the company well over \$1 billion in low-interest loans. Reports of the alleged incidents emerged after he left office. Under Brazilian law, influence peddling to obtain advantages from a public servant or institution is illegal.



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attends a meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Brazilian prosecutors are said to be investigating allegations that Silva peddled his influence for the scandal-plagued construction firm Odebrecht. (AP Photo/Andre Penner)

The prosecutor's office said that Silva's efforts helped Odebrecht obtain contracts to build infrastructure projects in Panama and Venezuela and that there are "strong indications" that the former president also helped the company get contracts in several other countries.

The Sao Paulo-based Lula Institute has said the former president denies any wrongdoing. "It is a completely irregular, untimely and unjustified procedure," the Institute said in a statement. "We will take all the necessary legal measures to correct this arbitrary act."

Political scientist Rosemary Segurado of Sao Paulo's Catholic University said the probe could weaken the Worker's Party and hurt its chances in the 2018 elections. The probe is the first time Silva's name has emerged in connection with a criminal investigation, she said.

Segurado added that the investigation could worsen the crisis for Silva's hand-picked successor, President Dilma Rousseff. Her popularity has plunged amid political and economic turbulence, including what prosecutors say is the biggest corruption scheme yet uncovered in Brazil — a sprawling system of kickbacks at state-run oil company Petrobras. The new probe of Silva is separate from the Petrobras case, and neither he nor Rousseff have been implicated in the scandal that allegedly saw Odebrecht and other major construction and engineering firms pay bribes to oil company executives in exchange for winning inflated contracts. Prosecutors allege that some of the money was funneled back to the campaign coffers of the Workers' Party and its allies. More than 50 political figures, including 33 members of Congress, are being investigated in the Petrobras case. □

Mexico official: 7 people arrested in jailbreak of drug lord

E. CASTILLO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Mexican federal official said Friday that seven people who were being questioned in the jailbreak of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman have been formally arrested and taken to a prison to await charges. The official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, did not specify whether those arrested

were prison guards or other officials in the penitentiary system. About three dozen people have been taken in for questioning; it was unclear if more would be charged. The drug lord sneaked out of the Altiplano prison, Mexico's highest-security facility, through a tunnel on July 11. The office of Attorney General Arely Gomez issued a statement late Thursday

confirming that the United States filed an extradition request for Guzman on June 25, about 2 ½ weeks before he escaped. Guzman faces U.S. charges of conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine. The office said Gomez had issued instructions to review the request and submit it to courts for consideration. The appeals process can stretch out extradition proceedings for years.

Former Mexican Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam said earlier that Mexico wouldn't extradite Guzman until after he had served time for all his crimes in Mexico. Murillo Karam told The Associated Press earlier this year that the U.S. would get Guzman in "about 300 or 400 years." Mexico has blamed the escape on a combination of Guzman's skill at building tunnels, and mis-

conduct or corruption that allowed his people to get their hands on the blueprints for the prison and tunnel directly into his shower stall undetected. President Enrique Pena Nieto, who had traveled to France for an official visit when Guzman escaped, returned to Mexico and said in a speech Friday that the prison escape has caused "indignation, frustration, anger in broad sectors of society." □



J-30 BASELWORLD 2015: Presenting the New BIG BANG FERRARI Watches



the sporty design of the new Big Bang Ferrari models is enhanced by a profiled aerodynamic dial through which the depths of the movement can be glimpsed. The UNICO manufacture movement is dominated by the unique and distinctive Ferrari grille – a blackened criss-cross mesh which clearly reveals the main plates and bridges of the movement.

The dial features an appliqué of the iconic prancing horse at 9 o'clock, while the minute counter and date window appear at 3 o'clock in the colors of the Ferrari shield. The predominant color on the strap also reflects the aesthetic of the dial, with indices and hands featuring a rhodium-plated finish for the grey ceramic and red varnish for the black ceramic. Recalling the distinctive codes of the five-spoke Ferrari wheels, the

oscillating weight is visible beneath the transparent sapphire case-back. The case middle incorporates elongated push-buttons in titanium and rubber, fixed to a rotating staff like the pedals of a car. The leather strap features a red or grey livery with "striping" reminiscent of that found on racing cars. It is equipped with the innovative "One click" attachment system inspired by car seat belts, making it easily interchangeable. Clearly displaying its affiliation with the automotive world, the new Big Bang Ferrari is available in two versions – black or grey ceramic – each numbering 250 pieces. They both have a 72-hour power reserve.

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ORANJESTAD - A fantastic third year of collaboration between Ferrari and Hublot is coming to an end. Following the launch of the first two watches, the Big Bang Titanium and the Big Bang Magic Gold in 2012, the famous MP-05 LaFerrari – the only watch in the world with a 50-day power reserve – three Big Bang models in 2013, three Big Bang models in 2014, two new Big Bang Ferrari "racing" versions have now been unveiled. Exceptional sports watches in

honor of exceptional racing cars. In 2015, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Big Bang, Hublot is unveiling two new models developed with Ferrari: the first is the aptly named Big Bang Ferrari Black Ceramic, which is adorned with details in Ferrari's legendary red color; the second is the Big Bang Ferrari Grey Ceramic, inspired by the historic NART (North America Racing Team) livery. Constructed on a 45 mm diameter chassis in black or grey ceramic,

September 25 & 26 in Aruba! Jazz It Up for the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2015

ORANJESTAD, Aruba,-- Traveling from the Caribbean island of Aruba to New York City was a small group of determined and likeminded entrepreneurs from Aruba to promote both the 9th edition of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival which will take place on September 25th and 26th 2015 and the first ever Aruba Inspiration Week. A press conference was held recently at the Montana Studios in the Big Apple. Topics were the announce-

ment of the headliners, the huge New York influence to this years' edition of the festival, the cultural experience of this unique Festival and the TEDxAruba. Joining the conference were artists Mike Stern, Roberta Gambarini and Roy Hargrove in a unique encounter with the CSJF organization, the Culture Dept. of the Dutch Consulate, the press, and invitees. Amongst the members of the press were reporters from WBGO Jazz Radio and the ultimate



Downbeat Magazine. After the official part of the conference Roberta, Mike and Roy couldn't wait to jam together with fellow musicians Willie Jones III, Teymur Phell and Etienne Stadwijk for a once in a lifetime performance. Talking about making things happen Coming up with a fresh and new line up for 2015, this yearly event attracts both local and international visitors who come and enjoy a good mix of Jazz, Latin, Soul, Funk, and Blues presented on 3 stages. The festival will take place at the Renaissance Festival Plaza in Aruba, a unique venue in the Caribbean with a big variety of music, theater, arts and culinary experiences in one week. Confirmed artists this year are EARTH, WIND & FIRE Experience, Grupo Niche,

Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, Roberta Gambarini, Mike Stern Band, The Ploctones, Maite Hontele, Jessy J, Delbert Bernabela and many more to announce. White-sand beaches, cooling trade winds and warm, friendly people are just a few reasons why so many people return to Aruba year after year. Come join us from during this epic week of Food for the Mind, Food for the Soul, Food for the Body. Early Bird Tickets for the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival are on sale on www.caribbeanseajazz.com. Contact the Entertainment Group NV at Tel. (297) 588-0211 or visit www.caribbeanseajazz.com for additional information. Get the latest information and event updates at www.facebook.com/caribbeanseajazzfestival.

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"Premium Large Format" Auditorium Coming to Palm Beach Plaza Mall: Caribbean Cinemas launching New 'Caribbean Cinemas Extreme'



PALM BEACH - On Thursday, July 23rd, Caribbean Cinemas will launch "CXC" (Caribbean Cinemas Extreme) a "Premium Large Format" auditorium which will create a totally immersive experience

with a wall to wall / ceiling to floor screen combined with over 50 speakers of Dolby Atmos digital surround sound system, 4K projection and reserved seating for advanced tickets purchasing.

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age and the sharpest sound technology. Also, having the opportunity to choose your favorite seat, adds value to this new way of theater enjoyment", mentioned Robert Carrady, President of Caribbean Cinemas.

Dolby Atmos' surround system has up to 128 audio channels and over 30mil power watts. The 360 degrees speaker's distribution are all around the ceiling, side walls, front and back of the theater, creating a dynamic effect that involves the spectator.

The screen, as high as a four stories building, would be the link between the spectator and the movie. The 4K projector with up to 33 lumens and 4 times the current digi-

tal resolution, will allow the moviegoer to see more detail, realistic and well defined images from the first to the last row. Tickets for the "CXC" numbered seats can be pur-

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U.S. Justin Gatlin takes selfie after winning the 100m men race at the Herculis International Athletics Meeting, at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco, Friday, July 17, 2015.
Associated Press

Gatlin continues fine form, wins 100m

JEROME PUGMIRE
AP Sports Writer

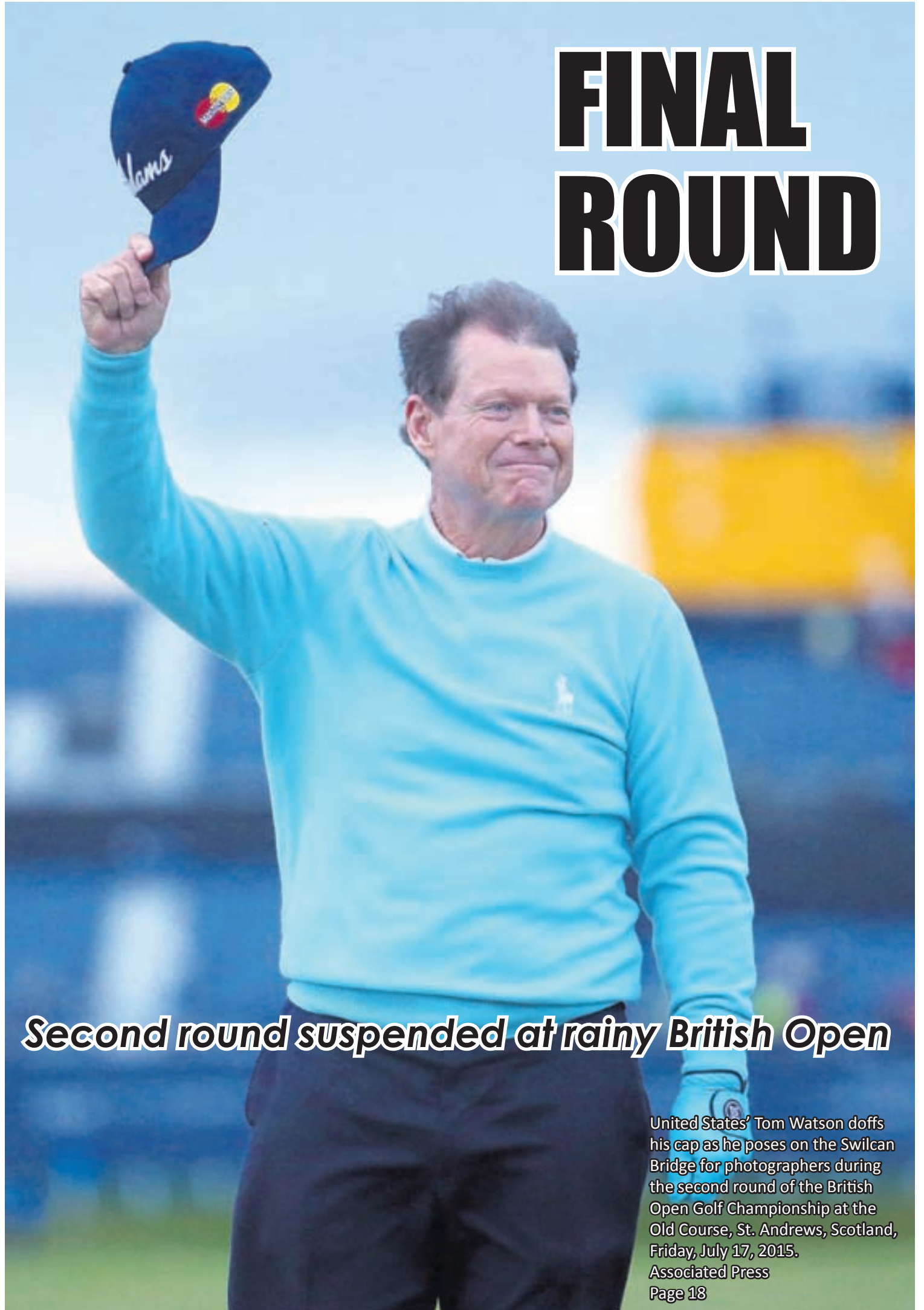
MONACO (AP) — American sprinter Justin Gatlin continued his fine form by clocking 9.78 to win the 100 meters at the Herculis Diamond League meet on Friday, beating countryman Tyson Gay and Frenchman Jimmy Vicaut.

Gay, who earlier teamed up with Gatlin as the American men won the 4x100 meter relay, clocked 9.97 and Vicaut was timed in 10.03.

The time was 0.04 outside Gatlin's world-leading season-best, but he is increasingly looking like the man to beat at the world championships in Beijing next month as title holder Usain Bolt struggles with a leg injury.

Unbeaten in the 100 since 2013, Gatlin was slightly slower than last week, however, when he clocked 9.75 at the Athletissima Diamond League meet.

Continued on page 20



FINAL ROUND

Second round suspended at rainy British Open

United States' Tom Watson doffs his cap as he poses on the Swilcan Bridge for photographers during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Friday, July 17, 2015.
Associated Press
Page 18



United States' Dustin Johnson looks at the 6th green during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Friday, July 17, 2015.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland

(AP) — The grand pursuit of Jordan Spieth, redemption for Dustin Johnson, the mystery that has become Tiger Woods. It all came to a momentary halt Friday

in the gloaming of St. Andrews when Tom Watson said goodbye to the British Open.

Watson, the most prolific winner of golf's oldest championship in the last century, finished his 129th round with lights from the

Royal & Ancient clubhouse illuminating the 18th green. The five-time champion made bogey. The score was irrelevant.

"There were no tears," Watson said. "This is a joyous occasion. I have a lot of great, great memories. And those memories filled me up."

Everything else about this wet and wild second round remained unsettled.

A heavy downpour at dawn flooded the Old Course and disrupted the start by more than three hours. Johnson and Spieth teed off shortly before 6 p.m. and were headed in different directions when it was too dark to continue.

In swift, shifting weather — umbrellas on one hole, sunglasses on the next — Johnson made three birdies in four holes on the front nine and built a two-shot lead before he made his first bogey of the tournament. He three-putted on the par-3 11th in wind so severe he had to back off a 4-foot putt and wipe his eyes.

Dustin Johnson still in control at St. Andrews

Johnson was at 10-under par.

Spieth three-putted for bogey three times in 11 holes to offset three birdies and was five shots behind Johnson, whom he beat by one shot in the U.S. Open last month to capture the second leg of the Grand Slam. Both were just short on the par-5 14th hole in two shots when they chose to mark their golf balls and return at 7 a.m. Saturday to resume the round.

"I'm in a good spot," Johnson said. "Definitely got very tricky this afternoon, all day. Even the front side, the wind was howling and it was blowing straight left-to-right pretty much. It played very tough all day."

Danny Willett of England had to cope with the wind, too, and he had a 3-under 69 to walk off the 18th green with his name atop the leaderboard at 9-under 135.

"Yeah, I think it's a childhood dream and looking up there it's still a little bit surreal, but something I'm going to have to get used to," Willett said. "Otherwise, no point in being up there. We're going to try and rest up and then try and go out for another good weekend and hopefully, we can be up there in two days' time." Watson wasn't the only player to bid farewell to the Old Course.

Nick Faldo, the three-time Open champion regarded as Britain's greatest champion, came out of the TV tower to play St. Andrews one last time. He switched into a sweater that he wore for his first Open title in 1987 at Muirfield, thrust his arms in the air atop the Swilcan Bridge, and saved par for a 71.

And then there was Woods, headed toward the wrong kind of history. Barring a burst of birdies when he returns Saturday morning — the kind of form he has not shown in two years — he was likely to miss the cut in the U.S. Open and the British Open for the first time in the same year. Woods was 5 over with seven holes to

play.

So much attention has been on Spieth and Jordan, the main characters from the drama that played out at Chambers Bay last month. Johnson had a 12-foot eagle putt on the final hole to win the U.S. Open, and three-putted to finish one shot behind golf's new golden child.

The wind was fierce, taxing shots with every club in the bag down to the putter.

Johnson continued to hammer away with his driver, setting up birdies, and he looked every bit like the player to beat. Spieth got in enough trouble off the tee that he often left long-range putts that led to bogeys instead of birdies.

Behind them, a long list of players lined up to take their shot on the weekend.

Jason Day, in contention at Chambers Bay even though he battled symptoms of vertigo, was at 8-under par through 11 holes. Paul Lawrie, the '99 champion at Carnoustie, also was at 8 under through 12 holes. Louis Oosthuizen, who won the claret jug the last time the Open came to St. Andrews, was at 7 under through 11 holes.

Among those who managed to finish was Adam Scott, a former Masters champion who is starting to feel the void of giving away the British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 2012 when he bogeyed the last four holes. Scott was in control in blustery weather, fighting his ball low and judging the bounce to perfect. He made three birdies around the loop at the far end of the course and closed with a birdie for a 67. Scott was at 7-under 137, along with Zach Johnson (71), Marc Warren (69) and Robert Streb (71).

"The last few years at the Open has been some of my favorite golf," Scott said. "Getting into contention at this championship and having a chance to lift the claret jug is what it's all about. This is a great position. I'm excited for my weekend." □

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Unlucky Sagan 2nd-best again at Tour as Froome stays cool

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

RODEZ, France (AP) — Peter Sagan might be the unluckiest rider at the Tour de France. "So close yet so far" could be his nickname. With a few more pumps on his pedals, a few more ounces of speed and power, the spunky Slovakian could have won four stages by now.

Instead, he has four second places.

He blamed only himself for the latest addition Friday to his unwanted collection. In a man-to-man duel on an uphill final sprint against Greg van Avermaet, Sagan mistimed his finish, easing up just a fraction too early against the Belgian rider who pushed to the very end.

"My stupid mistake," said the Tinkoff-Saxo rider.

Chris Froome was faultless. Again. Another stage down, another step closer to sipping champagne on the Champs-Elysees for the race leader.

"Just happy to tick that day off. One day closer to Paris now," he said.

For most of the flat-to-hilly Stage 13 from Muret deep in southern France, six low-placed riders rode in a breakaway at the front of the race. None were a threat for the podium in Paris. The closest to Froome, Cyril Gautier, was more than an hour behind him in the overall standings. So Froome and the main pack happily let the escape get away, hoping instead for a breather on the 198-kilometer (123-mile) trek after three grueling days of climbing in the Pyrenees and under unrelenting sun that melted tarmac.

Riding past plantations of yellow sunflowers and golden fields of harvested wheat, the riders worked on staying hydrated as temperatures soared into the mid-30s Celsius (mid-90s Fahrenheit). A loss of concentration proved very painful for Jean-Christophe Peraud. Last year's runner-up suffered a nasty spill at speed on the flat, tearing strips of skin off his left leg and arms as he hit the deck hard and rolled several times. The French leader of the AG2R La Mondiale team gingerly picked himself up and remounted, gritting his teeth. A Tour doctor then patched him up on the move, wrapping his wounds in bandages as Peraud gripped the speeding medical car.

"When it's hot like that, you need a new bottle of water every 10-15 minutes," said Froome. "It was tough."

And it got tougher.

As the finish in Rodez drew close, the peloton woke from its slumber. Like mice trying to escape a hunting cat, the escapees rode furiously, eyeing the stage win in the town of 26,000 people. Their specialty dishes include aligot, a mix of melted cheese and mashed potato, and tripe. The cat had other plans. Riders took turns at the front of the peloton to pile on speed. The gap melted like ice cream. With 7 kilometers (4 miles) to ride, it had shrunk from minutes to 40 seconds. It was clear this would be agonizingly close. The pack caught its prey inside the last kilometer (half-mile), swallowing up the last three escapees. That was when van Avermaet and Sagan pounced, surging ahead,

two powerful riders competing for one prize.

The 30-year-old Belgian made the top 10 on five previous stages. Not bad, but no cigar. As well as second places on Stages 2, 5 and 6, 25-year-old Sagan also placed third twice. Both were ravenous to win. Van Avermaet, it turned out, just a fraction more so. Sensing a rider — he didn't know it was Sagan — on his wheel, he emptied his tank. Sagan, sprinting behind, off his saddle, sat back down just a tad too early.

"Incredible," said van Avermaet, who rides for the BMC team.

"I was dead, really dead," he said. "I thought I'd caught second. I pushed for the line and was so happy he didn't overtake me."

Sagan glowered at a reporter who asked how it felt to be second again. He is the most consistent sprinter of this Tour, wearing the green jersey awarded for that quality. But he last won a stage in 2013. He won three the year before that.

"I'm very angry and disappointed," Sagan said. "I sat down and all the pain comes. Bad."

The cat-mouse chase killed Froome's hopes for an uneventful day. The British leader of the Sky team and his closest podium challengers threw themselves into the final sprint because they didn't want to lose time, even just a few seconds, to each other. Mission accomplished. Froome's lead remains unchanged, with Tejay van Garderen of BMC still 2 minutes, 52 seconds back and Nairo Quintana third, still 3:09 back. □



Belgium's Greg van Avermaet celebrates crossing the finish line ahead of Peter Sagan of Slovakia, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 198.5 kilometers (123.3 miles) with start in Muret and finish in Rodez, France, Friday, July 17, 2015.

Associated Press

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Monaco

Continued from page 17

But the performance of the night went to Ethiopian Genzebe Dibaba, who set a world record time of 3 minutes, 50.07 seconds in the women's 1,500 meters — eclipsing the long-standing mark of 3:50.46 set by China's Qu Yunxia in 1993. Several others, including Kenya's Asbel Kiprop in the men's 1,500, Bosnian Amel Tuka in the men's 800, American Bershawn Jackson in the men's 400 hurdles, American Francena McCorory and the women's 4x100 relay team set leading performances in the world this year. The star-studded American men's relay team, also featuring Trayvon Bromell, easily won in 37.87, with Mike Rodgers well clear of Yazaldes Nascimento as Portugal clocked 39.05 to finish second. The French team was third in 39.64. Gatlin felt the time could



U.S. Justin Gatlin wins the 100m men's race at the Herculis International Athletics Meeting, at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco, Friday, July 17, 2015.

Associated Press

have been better.

"We had some obstacles, first handover from my young teammate (Bromell) was not that good," Gatlin said. "I'm not sure but this might be the order in which we will run in Beijing. I would accept the second leg."

Jackson, meanwhile, clocked 48.23 in the 400 hurdles, pulling away

strongly to finish ahead of Poland's Patryk Dobek, who set a personal best of 48.62, and American countryman Johnny Dutch, who clocked 48.67.

Mo Farah, the Olympic champion in 5,000 and 10,000, finished fourth in the 1,500, gradually dropping off the pace as Kiprop posted the third fastest time ever in 3:26.69. Only

Kenyan Bernard Lagat (3:26.34) and Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj (3:26) have run faster.

"At the bell I saw 2:31-2:32 so I knew it could be a very fast time," Kiprop said. "I'm very satisfied but I wanted a bit faster time."

Farah was overtaken by Algerian Taoufik Makhloufi and Moroccan Abdelaati Iguider two turns from the end and finished in 3:28.93, shy of his personal best of 3:28.81.

Shortly after Kiprop's outstanding performance, Tuka thrilled the Stade Louis II crowd with another leading time, winning the 800 in 1:42.51 in a close-fought finish with Nijel Amos of Botswana — the Diamond League leader — who set a season's best 1:42.66.

Caleb Mwangangi Ndiku did likewise, getting the best time this year of 7:35.13 in the men's 3,000. Ethiopian Yenew Alamirew was second in a season's best 7:36.39.

Pole vaulter Renaud Lavillenie, world leader with 6.05 meters, won with an effort of 5.92 but clipped the bar going for 6.02.

Americans sealed a 1-2-3 in shot put, with Joe Kovacs winning with a personal best, Diamond League and Herculis meet record and world leading throw this year of 22.56 meters, putting him ahead of Christian Cantwell's 21.24 and Reese Hoffa's mark of 21.08.

"Everything was clicking today," Kovacs said. "I know I have it in me."

In a shortened field of three teams, the American women took 1-2 in the 4x100 relay, with USA A beating USA B.

USA A, comprising of English Gardner, Allyson Felix, Jenna Prandini and Kaylin Whitney, clocked 41.96 seconds.

"It's always fun to run with the girls," Felix said, looking ahead to Beijing. "I would accept (the) second leg in Beijing." □

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Coca-Cola tells FIFA to start independent reform commission

ROB HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

FIFA has been told by sponsor Coca-Cola to appoint an independent commission to lead a reform pro-

football community," the governing body said in a statement to The Associated Press.

FIFA is reeling from the indictment of 14 people —

Brent Wilton, Coca-Cola director of global workplace rights, also wrote to a member of the New FIFA Now movement on Friday to say that the commission "will

throughout the world.

"FIFA must now implement meaningful changes to restore trust and credibility with fans and sponsors alike. The world expects concrete actions and so does McDonald's."

Swiss federal investors are also looking into the bidding contests for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups where sponsor branding will feature prominently at games.

The call for an "eminent" individual to lead the overhaul of FIFA echoes a key demand in a document from global anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International earlier this week.

United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan was named this week by a senior Netherlands football federation official as the type of leader FIFA needs to restore credibility. □



this May 23, 2012, file photo, newly elected president of CONCACAF Jeffrey Webb, right, talks to FIFA President Sepp Blatter as they arrive at the meeting of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football prior to the two-day congress of FIFA in Budapest, Hungary.

cess aimed at cleaning up world soccer's scandal-ridden governing body.

In the most significant intervention by a company which helps to bankroll world soccer, the soft drinks giant said Friday that it formally asked FIFA to allow "one or more eminent, impartial leaders" to explore how the organization can regain its credibility and the trust of fans.

After Coca-Cola's demand was revealed, another U.S.-based sponsor — McDonald's — publicly rebuked FIFA for having "internal controls and compliance culture" inconsistent with the fast-food chain's own standards.

FIFA responded by saying it "values the input" of corporate backers but did not endorse calls for a commission.

"FIFA's goal is to achieve the highest standards of governance and accountability for the international

including two now-ousted vice presidents who were arrested in Zurich — in an American investigation into alleged racketeering, bribery and money laundering in soccer.

The indictments were revealed in May, just before Sepp Blatter was re-elected for a fifth term as FIFA president, but mounting pressure led to him announcing plans to resign four days later. FIFA's executive committee will meet on Monday to decide an election date, which is likely to be early 2016, and discuss potential reforms.

Coca-Cola, which has sponsored FIFA since 1974, confirmed to the AP that it "asked FIFA to support an independent, third-party commission overseen by one or more eminent, impartial leaders to manage the efforts necessary to help reform FIFA's governance and its human rights requirement."

be the most credible way for FIFA to ... build back the trust it has lost."

"We are calling for this approach out of our deep commitment to ethics and human rights and in the interest of seeing FIFA succeed," Wilton wrote to International Trade Union Confederation General Secretary Sharan Burrow. McDonald's — a FIFA sponsor since the 1994 World Cup — told the AP that urgent "deep reform" is required while backing the commission proposed by Coca-Cola.

"Recent allegations and indictments have severely tarnished FIFA in a way that strikes at the very heart of our sponsorship," McDonald's said. "As a result, we have expressed our concerns directly to FIFA. We believe FIFA's internal controls and compliance culture are inconsistent with expectations McDonald's has for its business partners

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SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30 | 12:15
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30
3D ON TWO SCREENS

AMY SCHUMER | BILL HADER
TRAINWRECK
MON-THURS 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15
FRI-SAT 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

SANDRA BULLOCK | JON HAMM
MINIONS
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50
FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50
3D ON TWO SCREENS

REESE MITCHELL | PFEIFFER BROWN
THE GALLOWS
MON-THURS 7:20
FRI 7:20
SAT 2:45 | 7:20
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 7:20

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER | EMILIA CLARKE
TERMINATOR GENISYS
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
FRI-SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

RYAN REYNOLDS | NATALIE MARTINEZ
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Dollars and sense: In the NBA, money is exploding

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — To understand how the business model of NBA salaries is unlike ever before, consider the cases of Reggie Jackson, Khris Middleton, and DeMarre Carroll. They're not All-Stars. They're not household names, either.

Nonetheless, the trio got a combined \$210 million in deals this summer: Jackson got \$80 million over five years from the Detroit Pistons, Middleton a five-year, \$70 million deal to stay with the Milwaukee Bucks, and Carroll a four-year contract worth nearly \$60 million to join the Toronto Raptors. Only a couple of years ago, such deals would have been considered baffling. These days, they seem quite fair.

"The numbers you hear out there, they seem crazy to think about," Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside said.

Thanks to a \$24 billion television deal that kicks in before the 2016-17 season, already skyrocketing salaries will soon reach a new stratosphere. It's hard to fathom that a league that dealt with serious labor strife four years ago and might be looking at another work stoppage in a couple of years is about to become flush with so much cash.

"One of the things we're learning is that there is so much that's unpredictable when the cap is moving so dramatically as it did — as it will next year, and the year after that," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "We're continuing to study how our system is absorbing the money."

Despite all the contract riches, Silver offers a major word of caution — the NBA still insists that plenty of teams are losing money.

"A significant number of teams are continuing to lose money and they continue to lose money because their expenses exceed their revenue," Silver said.

And yet to many, the riches seem richer than ever. The



In this March 8, 2015, file photo, Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson (1) drives to the basket against the Charlotte Hornets in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Auburn Hills, Mich. Associated Press



In this April 23, 2015, file photo, Milwaukee Bucks' Khris Middleton reacts during Game 3 of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Chicago Bulls in Milwaukee. Associated Press

salary cap for this coming season was supposed to rise considerably to \$67 million; it went even higher, to \$70 million. The salary cap for the 2016-17 season might be \$90 million. For the season after that, maybe \$110 million or more.

These days, players that might not have been considered stars are getting what would recently have been star-level deals. John Wall — one of the league's elite point guards — of the Washington Wizards aired his complaints this week.

"I'm getting the same as Reggie Jackson," he lamented, as quoted by CSN Washington.

Wall, a two-time All-Star, is going into the second year of a five-year, \$85 million deal. Jackson cashed in after averaging nearly 18 points in 27 games with Detroit last season, a breakout that followed 3 1/2 seasons of largely unheralded work. "That new (collective bargaining agreement) kicked in at the right time," Wall said.

Sure, but it seems like all

players are reaping benefits. Under the current CBA, player salaries are supposed to make up about 50.4 percent of the league's basketball-related income. This past season, income grew more



In this Nov. 7, 2014, file photo, Atlanta Hawks' DeMarre Carroll, center, drives between Charlotte Hornets' Lance Stephenson, right, and Al Jefferson, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C. Associated Press

than anticipated, and that meant the league wrote a check to the National Basketball Players Association to cover the difference — roughly \$57 million.

Silver thinks that might look like peanuts next year.

"We could be writing a

check moving close to half a billion dollars to the players association," Silver said. "That's not of course the ideal outcome from our standpoint. ... It's happened because the revenue we generated was much higher than we had ever modeled. But we're also learning that when you have all that money coming into the system, team behavior isn't necessarily predictable either."

The numbers right now are huge, which is giving some within the game hope that the league and the union — which can opt out of the CBA in two years — can avoid any more interruptions in play.

Anthony Davis was locked up by the New Orleans Pelicans for \$145 million over the next five years. LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers will make \$23 million this season; he could earn more than \$30 million in 2016-17 if he, as would seem likely, opts out once again.

Next summer, Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder is the expected headliner of the free-agent class, and his contract could easily set records. Just think what Stephen Curry — the league MVP and leader of the NBA champion Golden State Warriors — will make when he's a free agent again in 2017.

Some scoffed when he signed a \$44 million, four-year deal in 2013. Curry seems like the biggest bargain in the game now.

"I've never seen anything like it," New York Knicks general manager Steve Mills said, when asked about how contract values keep soaring. "Obviously, it changes what happens with the league."

The growth has been steady in recent years, though now the climb seems to be much steeper. In 2011, the average annual value of new free-agent contracts was about \$5 million. So far this year, it's flirting with the \$10 million mark.

Whiteside will make just under \$1 million this season. □

Selling that sofa online? Think about going to the cop shop

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Michele Velleman needed to sell a Zumba dance fitness kit, a cellphone and a table. So she found buyers on Facebook and made the trades at — where else? — the police station.

"It is always a little nerve-racking when you go to someone's house. It's in the back of your mind: 'I hope this person is OK and everything turns out all right,'" said Velleman, 44, a pharmaceutical executive assistant for a pharmaceutical company who lives north of Boston in Georgetown. "I think my mother is happier I'm doing it this way."

"Online safe zones" like the one Velleman uses are popping up at police stations nationwide as authorities try to clamp down on crime associated with online trade between strangers. More than 100 police departments now provide space in their lobbies or parking lots where people can make their deals and know that police are only feet away.

"They have to meet them somewhere, but they don't know who they're meeting and they don't really have any background on these people," said Georgetown police Lt. Scott Hatch. "They can come here and at least they'll feel that the person is legitimate and won't take their money."

A few departments began offering safe zones two or three years ago, but their popularity exploded this year after several high-profile killings as deals made on Craigslist were carried out:

— In January, a couple who said they wanted to buy a 1966 Mustang were shot in McRae, Georgia, allegedly by a man who answered their ad.

— A month later, a 21-year-old college student was robbed and fatally shot in Marietta, Georgia, after he responded to an ad to buy an iPhone.

— In March, a pregnant woman responding to an ad to buy baby clothes in Longmont, Colorado,



Susan Locke, left, counts out her cash as she purchases a table from Michele Velleman in the "online safe zone" outside the police station in Georgetown, Mass., Monday, July 13, 2015.

Associated Press

was stabbed and her fetus pulled from her womb, allegedly by the woman who placed the ad. The woman survived, but the fetus died.

— In May, a 19-year-old Illinois college student trying to sell his sports car was killed. Authorities charged a man they say responded to the student's ad.

Police in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, set up a safe zone in May after reading about the killings.

"I always tell people to do it at a neutral place, a populated place," said Chief James Spinney. "If anybody had a diabolical plan in mind, they are certainly not going to agree to meet at a police station."

Craigslist did not respond to requests for comment for this article. But the classified service says on its website that most of its users are trustworthy and well-intentioned. But it urges common-sense precautions including meeting in a public place, not inviting strangers into your home, having a friend accompany you and "making high-value exchanges at your local police station."

Advanced Interactive Media Group, a Florida-based consulting company for classified ad businesses, has started an initiative called SafeTrade that encourages law enforcement agencies to become

havens for online transactions. "The old maxim — make your trades in a public place — is not good enough," said Peter Zollman, founding principal. "Avoiding problems is very

simple. If somebody is intent on ripping you off, the odds are almost zero that they will be willing to meet you at a police station." Some police departments report a booming business

for their safe zones.

"The citizens have eaten it up," said police Capt. Mike McCoy in Fulshear, Texas, west of Houston.

Most police departments do not get involved in the transactions themselves, preferring to merely offer a secure location to complete online sales. But in Fulshear, police will check databases of stolen goods for anyone who requests it. In Post Falls, Idaho, police see deals completed in their parking lot nearly daily. Among the items spotted: a bed, dining room set, antique dishes.

Mimi Fisher, a real estate agent, has sold snow tires, a motorcycle helmet and framed prints at the police station.

"I've had people come to my house, and it's always been a scary thought for me because you just don't know," Fisher said. "I feel comfortable because I just know the police are right there if I need them." □

Major cyberattack targets UCLA hospital system

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A months-long cyberattack on the University of California, Los Angeles hospital system put at risk the personal information for up to 4.5 million people, officials said Friday.

UCLA Health said in a statement that while there's no evidence hackers acquired personal or medical data, it can't be ruled out yet.

Officials said they were working with the FBI to track the source of the attacks. The FBI said in a statement that the agency was looking into the nature and scope of the cyberattack, as well as the person or group responsible.

University of California President Janet Napolitano

ordered an outside cybersecurity group to assess the computer security system throughout the UC system and look for potential vulnerabilities.

Beginning as early as September 2014, hackers accessed a UCLA Health network that contains "personal information such as names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, medical record numbers, Medicare or health plan ID numbers and some medical information," the UCLA statement said.

UCLA Health has hired private computer forensic experts to further secure information at its four hospitals. Free identity-protection services will be offered to people who may have

been affected.

"We sincerely regret any impact this incident may have on those we serve," said Dr. James Atkinson, UCLA Health's interim associate vice chancellor and president. "We have taken significant steps to further protect data and strengthen our network against another cyber-attack."

UCLA Health includes four hospitals on two campuses - Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center; UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica; Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA; and Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA - and more than 150 primary and specialty offices throughout Southern California. □

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Nasdaq logs best week in nearly nine months

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A strong week fizzled to a close on Friday as the stock market eked out a small gain. But a few companies made big moves. Google surged after reporting strong results, pushing the Nasdaq to another record high. It was a quiet end to an eventful week. Markets around the world rallied on Monday after Greece and its creditors agreed to a broad framework for a new loan program. Stronger quarterly earnings reports from a range of big U.S. companies, including Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase, added more encouragement.

"It appears the sky is clearing," said Linda Duessel, senior equity strategist at Federated Investors.

Before this week, concerns about China's plunging stock market and the prospect of Greece leaving the euro "had been bogging us down," she said.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 2.35 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 2,126.64. The broad-market measure finished the week with a gain of 2.4 percent, its best performance in four months. The Nasdaq rose 46.96 points, or 0.9 percent, to 5,210.14, closing out its best week in nine months. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 33.80 points, or 0.2 percent, at 18,086.45.

Google jumped after reporting profits and sales that topped analysts' forecasts late Thursday. The results ended six consecutive

quarters in which Google's earnings fell short of analysts' targets. Google rose \$97.84, or 16 percent, to \$699.62.

Earnings reports out this week have looked better than Wall Street expect-

Europe's major markets finished mixed after rallying earlier this week. Germany's DAX lost 0.4 percent while France's CAC edged up 0.1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.3 percent.

precious and industrial metals sank. Gold fell \$12 to settle at \$1,131.90 an ounce, while silver sank 15 cents to \$14.92 an ounce. Copper fell 3 cents to \$2.50 a pound.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil



Screens display financial information on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. A strong week fizzled to a close on Friday as the stock market eked out a small gain and a few companies made big moves.
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

ed. Analysts forecast that second-quarter earnings will shrink 3.3 percent compared with the prior year, according to S&P Capital IQ. Last week, the prediction was for a drop of 4.4 percent.

Greece's deal cleared another hurdle on Friday when German lawmakers overwhelmingly backed it. The European Union also said it would get Athens enough money for it to keep making its debt payments.

Back in the U.S., Comerica reported a drop in quarterly earnings, partially a result of the Dallas-based bank setting aside more money to cover losses on loans to oil companies. The news drove Comerica's stock down \$3.19, or 6.3 percent, to \$47.28.

Bond prices barely moved, leaving the 10-year Treasury note at 2.35 percent. The dollar dropped to 124.06 yen while rising to \$1.0838 for every euro.

In commodities trading,

fell two cents to close at \$50.89 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 18 cents to close at \$57.10 a barrel in London.

In other trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange:

— Wholesale gasoline rose 3.2 cents to close at \$1.929 a gallon.

— Heating oil fell 0.2 cent to close at \$1.664 a gallon.

— Natural gas increased 1.6 cents to close at \$2.870 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Report: Amazon 'Prime Day' will be annual event

MAE ANDERSON

Amazon says its "Prime Day" sale led to a sales surge and "hundreds of thousands" of new signups for its \$99 annual Prime loyalty program. The company said it plans to make the sale an annual event.

Tied to its 20th anniversary, Amazon promoted Wednesday's sale for weeks by saying there would be more deals than during the busy winter holiday shopping season. Some shoppers took to social media and elsewhere to complain about the types of sales they were seeing and their limited nature.

Nonetheless, Amazon said this week that in the U.S. and nine countries around the world that offer the Prime program, shoppers ordered 398 items per second, surpassing the rate of ordering on Black Friday, the busy shopping day after Thanksgiving. It said worldwide order growth more than quadrupled over the same day last year, which is typically a sluggish sales day, and rose 18 percent more than Black Friday 2014.

"Going into this, we weren't sure whether Prime Day would be a one-time thing or if it would become an annual event," said Greg Greeley, Amazon Prime vice president. "After yesterday's results, we'll definitely be doing this again." In the U.S., TVs, Bose headphones, Rubbermaid storage sets, pressure cookers, Roomba vacuum cleaning robots, the unrated Blu-ray version of "50 Shades of Grey" and Megular microfiber towels were top sellers. Abroad, a Blu-ray trilogy of "Lord of the Rings" and a Lenovo notebook computer were popular.

ChannelAdvisor, which tracks sales by third-party sellers on Amazon, said sales jumped 93 percent on Wednesday compared with a year ago in the U.S. and rose 53 percent in Europe. It said sellers achieved 97 percent of the total amount of sales generated on Black Friday and 60 percent of the sales volume on Cyber Monday. □

EBay sells Enterprise unit, tops profit expectations

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — EBay sold its Enterprise business for \$925 million and topped Wall Street expectations for its second-quarter earnings as the online retailer prepares to spin off PayPal.

EBay had said in January that it might sell Enterprise, which develops online shopping sites for brick-and-mortar retailers. Clients include Sports Au-

thority, PetSmart and Ikea. Earlier this month one of its biggest clients, Toys R Us, said that it would move its ecommerce business in house next year.

But that didn't stop the sale to a group of private equity firms led by Permira and Sterling Partners, the company announced this week.

EBay Inc., based in San Jose, California, also re-

ported quarterly net income of \$83 million, or 7 cents per share. Adjusted earnings, excluding a \$786 million charge related to the Enterprise sale, amounted to 76 cents per share. That was 4 cents better than analysts had projected, according to a survey by Zacks Investment Research. The e-commerce company posted revenue of \$4.38 billion in

the period. Including revenue from its discontinued enterprise unit, however, revenue totaled \$4.65 billion. Thirteen analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$4.48 billion. EBay said the stronger dollar hurt its results. EBay expects full-year earnings in the range of \$1.72 to \$1.77 per share. Its shares are up more than 29 percent over the past year. □

Shareholders approve Samsung deal paving way for succession

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Shareholders approved Friday a highly contested deal that strengthens the Samsung family's grip on the world's largest smart-phone maker, sparking criticism that South Korea lacks sufficient protections for foreign investors and small shareholders.

Samsung construction company Samsung C&T said that 69.5 percent of shareholders who voted supported the takeover of it by another Samsung company, Cheil Industries. The takeover needed two thirds of votes cast for approval. Market watchers expected a close vote after Elliott Associates, an American hedge fund that is the third largest shareholder in C&T, rallied opposition against the deal that it called unfair.

Lee Jae-yong, the son of Samsung's ailing chairman, is assuming a bigger leadership role at the South Korean conglomerate but lacks a significant stake in its flagship Samsung Electronics. The all-stock takeover of C&T by Cheil will give him that stake without having to spend billions of dollars to buy it from other shareholders.

The outcome of the vote is likely to take a toll on South Korea's reputation overseas as a fair place for investment.

The country has long faced criticism that the founding families of its big business groups known as chaebol exercise too much power over companies that have become publicly traded. Those concerns about poor governance and weak shareholder rights have resulted in foreign investors marking down the value of South Korean shares.

The global funds "who are looking to seek investment opportunities in Asia will divert their way from Korea even faster to China where there are more exciting growth opportunities," said Thomas Choi, founder of Third Square Investments, which does not own any



An office worker walks by a logo of Samsung C&T Corp., at its head office in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, July 17, 2015. Samsung shareholders approved Friday a highly contested deal that strengthens the Samsung family's grip on the world's largest smartphone maker. Samsung construction company Samsung C&T said that 69.5 percent of shareholders who voted supported the takeover of it by another Samsung company, Cheil Industries.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

shares in Cheil or Samsung C&T.

"Foreign investors would not want to take inherent management risk by investing in Korean companies with such poor corporate governance that lead to shareholders' value being

exploited by the founding family members for their own benefit not shareholders," he said.

The heated debate before the vote showed shareholders were sharply divided. Those that opposed the deal said its terms were

too favorable to shareholders at Cheil Industries, in which the Lee family is a major shareholder.

Elliott's attorneys tried to ease the concerns that it was threatening South Korea's national interest, emphasizing that the for-

eign fund was not trying to meddle with the Samsung group's restructuring but was speaking up for fairness.

The approval of the takeover does not necessarily mean full-hearted support from South Korean shareholders. Some said they supported the deal out of a sense of patriotism even though they believed its terms were unfair. South Korea has a history of hostility to foreign investors.

"People with C&T shares are crying and those with Cheil shares are smiling. It's too unfair," an elderly shareholder told the meeting before the vote. He said he would vote for the deal, but expressed displeasure with Samsung C&T board of directors.

"There are a lot of people who are just biting the bullet," he said. Analysts said it would have been difficult for South Korean asset management companies to speak publicly against a deal that was supported by the country's most powerful business group. Samsung companies, including South Korea's largest life insurer Samsung Life Insurance, are clients or potential clients for many of them. □

Earnings beat low expectations so far, lifting stocks

MARLEY JAY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

— For U.S. investors, low expectations are paying off.

Over the last week, 38 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index have reported quarterly results, and financial information company S&P Capital IQ says most have posted bigger-than-expected profits. Companies, however, tend to talk down expectations so they can surprise markets with higher results, and that appears to be happening again.

The market has responded, with the S&P 500 up 3.8 percent since last Wednesday's close, when Alcoa's results kicked off earnings season. The S&P rose finished at 2,124.29 on Thursday after strong earnings



The Alcoa logo is seen in the lobby of Alcoa's headquarters in Pittsburgh. Alcoa Inc.'s second-quarter 2015 profit was smaller than analysts expected, although its revenue topped estimates.

(AP Photo/Gene Puskar)

from an array of companies.

The index closed at an all-time high on May 21 but slumped recently, weighed down by concerns about

a potential default by Greece and plunging Chinese stocks. Chinese markets have now steadied and Greece and its creditors have agreed to start

talking about a new bailout package that would help the country avoid default and departure from the euro.

This week, investors have turned their attention back to earnings, which are supposed to decline overall. But big banks like JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citigroup all reported gains, and distanced themselves from onerous legal costs tied to the financial crisis. Intel surpassed estimates and Netflix posted strong growth in streaming video subscribers.

S&P Capital IQ analyst Lindsay Bell thinks second-quarter profits might grow slightly compared to last year, but she says investors and analysts may ultimately look at other figures. □

Mutts



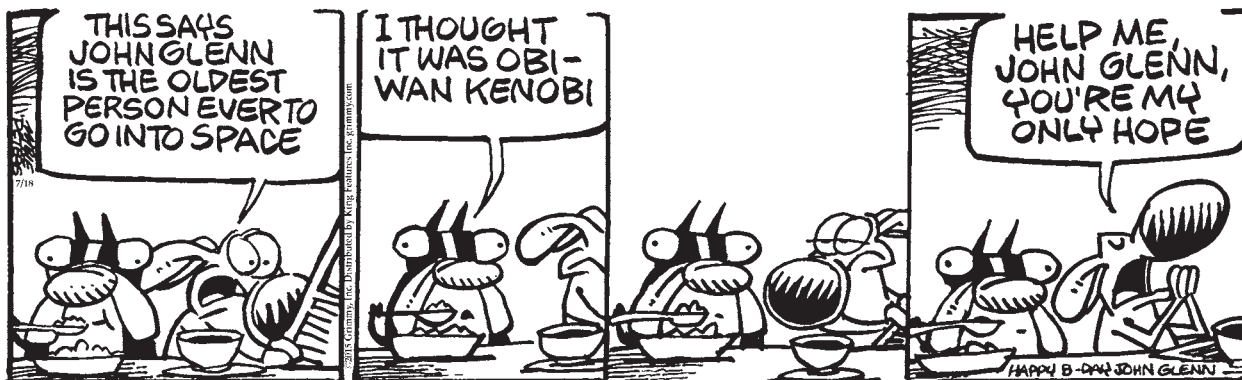
6 Chix



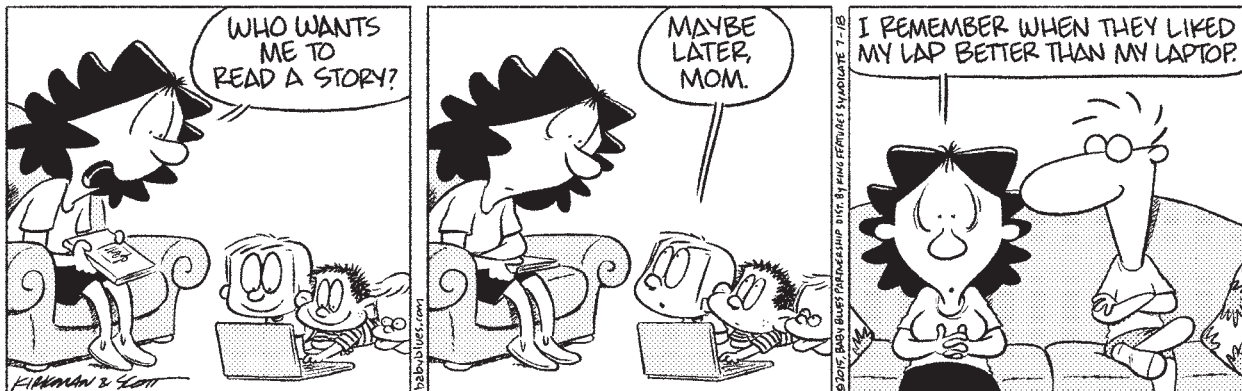
Blondie



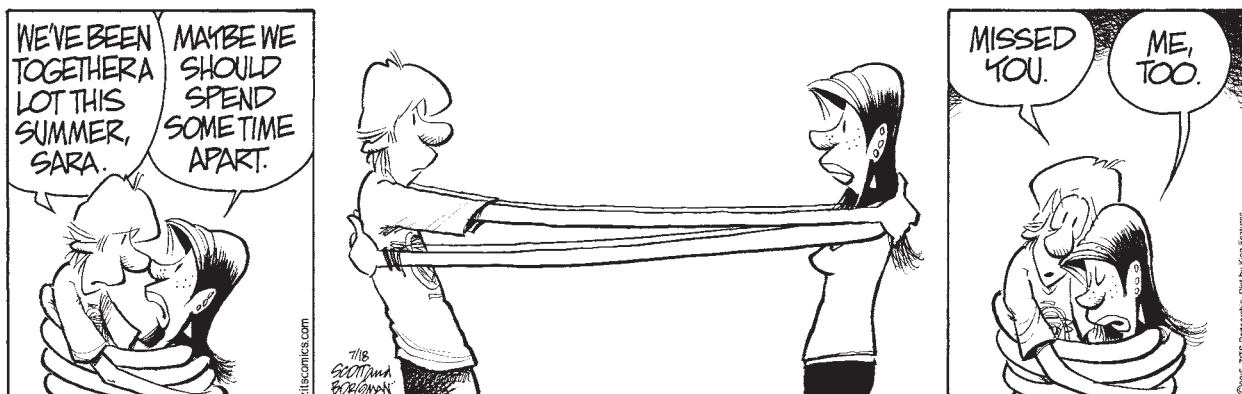
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9	8			
		4			1		
	3		5	2		9	
7							8
	4	1		9		5	3
6							7
	7		8	1		5	
		2			7		
			6	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	3	2	5	1	8	4	9	7
8	4	1	9	7	2	6	3	5
9	5	7	3	6	4	2	1	8
1	2	3	7	9	5	8	4	6
7	8	9	6	4	1	5	2	3
4	6	5	8	2	3	9	7	1
2	9	8	1	5	7	3	6	4
5	7	4	2	3	6	1	8	9
3	1	6	4	8	9	7	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Leak out slowly
- 5 Enjoys a leisurely bath
- 10 Breakfast or brunch
- 14 Rate of speed
- 15 Cup-shaped flower
- 16 "Small World"
- 17 Prolonged pain
- 18 Get up
- 19 Puncture
- 20 Spades
- 22 Depresses
- 24 Sort; category
- 25 Tea variety
- 26 Smelly animal
- 29 "I've __ it!"; cry of frustration
- 30 Has on
- 34 Protracted
- 35 Island garland
- 36 Mitchell or McArdle
- 37 Clumsy fellow
- 38 Food packaging plant
- 40 Apply fingerprint
- 41 Goes down a fire pole
- 43 Edison's initials
- 44 Idiot
- 45 Despised
- 46 Wager
- 47 Early grade
- 48 Bravery
- 50 Pasture cry
- 51 Unscrupulous
- 54 Curl
- 58 Street uprising
- 59 Lukewarm
- 61 Rant and __; carry on
- 62 A single time
- 63 Wear away
- 64 Stein drinks
- 65 Shoe brand
- 66 Thick cords
- 67 Ship's pole

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22			23				
			24				25							
26	27	28			29				30	31	32	33		
34					35				36					
37				38				39			40			
41		42				43				44				
45						46				47				
			48	49				50						
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58					59	60				61				
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/18/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	G	E	R	A	L	M	S	L	O	A	F
A	L	O	N	E	D	I	E	T	U	R	G	E
S	L	A	T	S	Z	E	T	A	S	A	N	E
H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N	R	A	T	T	E
			A	L	A	S	R	E	P	R	E	S
C	O	O	P	E	R	R	O	D	E	O		
H	A	D	S	T	R	U	M	D	U	E	L	S
I	H	O	P	H	U	M	A	N	S	A	I	L
C	U	R	E	S		L	O	S	E	R	S	E
			R	A	R	E	R	P	E	N	T	U
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	B	A	S	E		
R	E	V	I	S	E		C	U	L	T	U	R
A	V	E	S		C	R	O	C	A	T	A	R
D	E	N	T		H	U	N	K	R	E	T	I
S	E	T	S		O	N	E	S	T	R	E	E

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7/18/15

- 5 Piece of celery
- 6 "Yours, Mine and __"; film for Dennis Quaid
- 7 Ring king
- 8 Smooched
- 9 Say something
- 10 Sin
- 11 Suffix for towel or leather
- 12 Wise __ owl
- 13 Blood analysis sites
- 21 BPOE member
- 23 Fabric softener brand
- 25 Artist
- 26 Walk in water
- 27 Cuddly-looking marsupial
- 28 Not qualified
- 29 Chicken's mom
- 31 Zeal
- 32 Peruses
- 33 Wooden shoe
- 35 __ Vegas
- 36 Common verb
- 38 Lebanon tree
- 39 Dine

DOWN

- 1 Hot tubs
- 2 Apiece
- 3 Canyon sound
- 4 Irritating

- 42 Ardent fan
- 44 Explanatory drawing
- 46 Waist-length jacket
- 47 Summer blower
- 49 In a while
- 50 __ one's time; waits
- 51 Common metal
- 52 Short skirt
- 53 Make fun of
- 54 "Ticket to __"; Beatles song
- 55 Tra's followers
- 56 Arden & Plumb
- 57 Examination
- 60 Burst

MH17

Continued from Page 2

In the Netherlands, the names of all 298 victims were read out — a process that took 27 minutes — before a minute's silence was held at the time when exactly a year earlier air traffic controllers lost contact with MH17.

Aljuned, the co-pilot's widow, summed up the feelings of relatives when she told them, "We do not know how much we love a person until we lose them." An Australian news agency on Friday released a video purporting to show Russian-backed rebels wandering around the MH17 wreckage, rifling through passengers' belongings and showing surprise that the plane was a foreign civilian aircraft while calling for local civilians to be kept away. Elements of the same video were aired by the BBC a year ago. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity or source of the video.

Abbott on Friday called the video "an atrocity" and said he was confident the plane was shot down by weaponry brought across the border from Russia. Flags on Dutch government buildings around the country were flying at half-staff throughout the day. The Netherlands was the

hardest-hit nation in the MH17 disaster — 196 of the victims were Dutch nationals.

Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine have asked the U.N. Security Council to establish an international criminal tribunal to prosecute those responsible for shooting down the plane. Russia, which holds a veto on the Security Council, opposes setting up a tribunal. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that setting up a tribunal would not make sense while the investigation continued.

In Nieuwegein, the Netherlands, concerns about bringing the perpetrators to justice took a back seat Friday as relatives mourned once again.

Wim van der Graaf, who lost his son in the crash, asked: "Where do I find the strength to keep going and carry this unbearable loss?"

An answer — if one was possible — was provided by the last speaker at the two-hour event that included readings by families, poetry, song and dance. The last speaker was Marieke Poelmann, whose parents were killed in a 2010 air disaster in Libya.

"I promise you it will get better," she said to families of the victims. "You have survived the first year and every year it hurts less. That doesn't mean you forget them. Quite the opposite." □

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Research: Polar bears can't conserve energy during fasting

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A study of an Alaska polar bear population in summer concludes the bear's biology will not help stave off starvation in the face of global warming.

The study of southern Beaufort Sea polar bears by university, federal and private researchers over three years concludes they have no special ability to minimize energy loss during increasing periods of fasting brought on by climate warming, less sea ice and fewer hunting days.

The research rejects the idea that polar bears can avoid harmful declines in body condition in a sort of "walking hibernation," as suggested by 1970s research.

Co-author, Steve Amstrup, a retired U.S. Geological Survey polar bear researcher now affiliated with Montana-based Polar Bears International, said the "walking hibernation" theory arose with observations of bears at Canada's Hudson Bay.



This March 25, 2009 photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, shows a polar bear in the Beaufort Sea region of Alaska. **Associated Press**

The paper published Thursday in the journal *Science* instead concludes that polar bears have no such ability to conserve energy and react like all other mammals when faced with limited food.

"We haven't known until now whether bears really reduce their metabolism in summer, which, if they did, may have offered a limited buffer from some of the negative effects of ice loss," said lead author John Whiteman of the University of Wyoming.

Fasting is a way of life for many animals. For polar bears, fasting can last eight months.

Their main prey is ringed seals. Hunting is most successful from April to July when seals use sea ice for rearing pups and molting. In months following, ringed

seals spend most of their time in water. Some polar bears retreat to land, where feeding opportunities are limited, or stay on sea ice that in recent years has retreated far north of the shallow, biologically abundant outer continental shelf. Using helicopters launched from a Coast Guard icebreaker, researchers sampled bears on summer sea ice.

"This paper gives us the first solid understanding of polar bear metabolism in summer, especially out on the sea ice over deep water far from shore, where

bears have never been sampled before," Whiteman said.

The study found that activity and temperature patterns recorded for polar bears in summer were not comparable to patterns for hibernating bears in winter dens. The patterns were typical of food-deprived mammals rather than hibernating mammals, Amstrup said.

Karyn Rode, U.S. Geological Survey research wildlife biologist in Anchorage who was part of a polar bear fasting study published in 2012, said the new study confirms that "walking hibernation" does not accurately describe polar bears' energetic status in the summer.

"It's definitely a different line of evidence that further supports that they can't conserve energy when they're fasting," Rode said.

Additional studies are coming out, but scientists say it's already clear what needs to be done.

"We already know the answer to the question, 'What do we need to do to save polar bears from extinction?'" Amstrup said. "All of the studies in the world won't help us there. If we don't deal with greenhouse gas emissions, those of us who have been studying polar bears for our whole lives will be nothing more than polar bear historians." □

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24/7

GM officials meet with group protesting Kid Rock, rebel flag

COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors officials met Thursday with the leader of an activist group demanding the automaker cut financial ties with Kid Rock over the musician's use of the Confederate battle flag, a discussion that both sides appeared optimistic about.

Neither GM nor the Rev. Charles Williams II gave details about the meeting, but their comments indicated that some sort of resolution seemed possible.

"Because we have had some dialogue that seems promising, we are continuing to meet — but we are not backing off," said Williams, president of the National Action Network Detroit chapter.

The group has protested Kid Rock's use of the flag. The musician's publicist told the Detroit Free Press that he last used the flag on tour

more than five years ago. Last week, Kid Rock emphatically dismissed critics' concerns.

Williams said he couldn't say whether Kid Rock was still using the flag in performances, but had concerns that he appears with the flag on social media.

The flag's use has spurred protests since last month's killing of nine black worshippers at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. The white man charged in the slayings had posed with the flag in photos that were posted online before the attack that police say was motivated by racial hatred. The flag was removed last week from the South Carolina Statehouse. Kid Rock, born Robert Ritchie, lives in suburban Detroit. He is known for dabbling in a variety of musical styles, from hip-hop and hard rock to country and Southern rock.

The Detroit branch of the



This May 5, 2015 file photo shows musician Kid Rock performing during National Concert Day in New York.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People honored him at its 2011 fundraising dinner for his philanthropy in and around the city. That honor, his publicist Nick Stern told the Free Press, cemented the musician's decision not to perform on-

stage with the flag.

"They're protesting something he's not even doing," Stern told the newspaper. GM spokesman Patrick Morrissey told The Associated Press earlier this week that the only flag on stage during Rock's Chevy-sponsored summer concert tour

Associated Press "is the American flag."

"We had a very constructive conversation with Rev. Williams today and we plan to continue the dialogue going forward," Morrissey said Thursday. "Chevrolet plans to continue its sponsorship of Kid Rock's summer concert series." □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Russell Simmons: NYC's horse carriages like Holocaust



In this May 21, 2015 file photo, Russell Simmons arrives at The 17th Annual CAST From Slavery to Freedom Gala in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hip-hop mogul and animal-rights advocate Russell Simmons is comparing New York's horse-drawn carriages to slavery and the Holocaust. Simmons spoke Thursday at an event organized by horse carriage opponents. The Wall Street Journal reports (<http://on.wsj.com/118xHXd>) that he likened horse carriages to slavery, ethnic cleansing and "people who put people in ovens."

Simmons urged New York Mayor Bill de Blasio to follow through on his cam-

paign promise to ban the horse carriages.

De Blasio said Simmons' remarks didn't bother him.

The mayor said he feels "very clear about the mission" to ban horse carriages.

He said some initiatives take longer to accomplish than others.

Asked about Simmons' remarks about slavery and the Holocaust, a mayoral spokeswoman said, "We respectfully disagree with Mr. Simmons's characterizations of all of the above." □

Pitbull to Trump: 'I'm a Latino first, I support our people'

NEW YORK (AP) — Pitbull is the latest star to take a bite out of Donald Trump.

The rapper called Trump out at Premios Juventad, the Spanish-language awards show that aired Thursday on Univision. The channel dropped Trump's Miss USA Pageant after his comments about some Mexican immigrants being rapists, criminals and drug dealers. Pitbull said, "I want to tell Marco Rubio, step it up! Jeb Bush, step it up! Hillary Clinton, step it up! Because Donald Trump can't be president."

He added: "For all of the Latinos out there, keep



In this Nov. 23, 2014 file photo, host Pitbull speaks on stage at the 42nd annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

your heads up, and Trump, watch out for El Chapo dude." □

Greg Poehler returns for 2nd season of Swedish comedy



In this image released by NBC, Per Svensson, from left, Jason Priestley, and Greg Poehler appear in a scene from "Welcome to Sweden."

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Simon, Jack Black, Neve Campbell, Amy Poehler and Jason Priestley make appearances in the second season of the television comedy "Welcome to Sweden," which launches on NBC on Sunday.

That's only marginally impressive, until you consider those guest shots required them to be in Stockholm during the long, dark winter months.

"We tried to get people who were already in Sweden and literally show up at their hotel with cameras," said "Welcome to Sweden" star and writer Greg Poehler. "Before they knew what was happening, they were on TV."

He's joking, sort of. Simon and Black were on concert tours that took them to Sweden while the series was being filmed and Poehler called on his sister Amy, who knew them both, to ask a favor. Campbell, who shares an agent with Greg Poehler, will appear in four episodes as an American businesswoman transferred to Sweden. Priestley also came just for the show.

Poehler, to remind fans who watched last summer, plays an American who falls in love with a Swedish

woman and moves to her home country, mirroring the young actor's real life. The show, filmed initially for Swedish television, was picked up by NBC and did well enough last summer to earn a second season in both those countries and others. Poehler recognizes that at a time networks are having trouble developing situation comedies that stick, it's a real opportunity

to have a series that lasts more than a few episodes. "There are so many stages of the process when something can go horribly wrong," he said.

"If you survive that, the second season is really where you find your voice and find your rhythm, and I think we've done that."

Poehler's character this season gets a job as the "guy" for American celebrities visiting Stockholm, a person who gets special access to tourist spots and performs other favors — a narrative device that works perfectly for the celebrity cameos.

Since he barely understands Swedish, "as you can imagine, he's not a very good 'guy,'" Poehler said.

The second season may be a little jarring for American television viewers since it is not only filmed, but set, in a Swedish winter.

"It will be a cold and dark and snowy Stockholm coming into your living room on July 19," he said. "You don't need an air conditioner. You can just watch our show." □

Queen Elizabeth II awards actor John Hurt knighthood

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has awarded actor John Hurt a knighthood for services to drama in his 40-year career.

The queen recognized the 75-year-old actor, who has received two Oscar nominations for his roles in "The Elephant Man" and "Midnight Express."

Hurt's other roles included playing wand maker Garrick Ollivander in the Harry Potter films as well as playing the War Doctor in a special 50th anniversary episode of the "Doctor Who" television series.

Hurt, who was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, said his only regret was that his parents were not alive to watch him collect the honor at Windsor Castle Friday. □



British actor John Hurt holds his award of a Knighthood presented by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during an Investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, England, Friday July 17, 2015.

Associated Press

MTV causes stir with film on white people

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the challenges for makers of the MTV documentary "White People" was getting folks to talk about race when they didn't feel the issue concerned them — like those quoted as saying they consider white the "default race" or "normal." So filmmaker Jose Antonio Vargas recorded white Americans in situations where they were forced to confront racial identity issues. He found to a white man who attends a traditionally black college, teachers on a South Dakota reservation where resentment toward whites is palpable, a young Brooklyn man bewildered by the Asian immigrants on his block, a white man who teaches a college course on white privilege. The documentary's trailer alone created a stir. The full film debuts Wednesday at 8 p.m. ET/PT, offered simultaneously online. "The only thing I fear is not having these conversations," Vargas said. "What I fear is the silence, the indifference, the ignorance. We can no longer have a conversation about race and diversity without having white people in it." Racial issues are timely, topping the news during the past several months



In this image released by MTV, filmmaker Jose Antonio Vargas, right, listens to a group of young people during the filming of his documentary "White People."

with the "black lives matter" campaign in response to police shootings and the debate over the Confederate flag. MTV President Stephen Friedman said he's wanted to look at how whites perceive themselves for several years, but it wasn't until he met Vargas that he felt he'd found the right person to do it. Vargas is best known for "Documented," a film where the Philippines-born journalist talks about his status as an undocumented U.S. resident. (His status hasn't changed since then). Race was a difficult topic, not simply because it's uncomfortable to talk about. Shuns, slights and stereotypes aren't a regular part

of life for most whites. More than four-fifths of MTV viewers polled said their families had taught them that everyone should be treated the same, regardless of differences. A colorblind upbringing is admirable, an attitude that no doubt leads to young people being more accepting of gay marriage, for example, than older Americans, Friedman said. But many also look past the lessons of history to question the need for affirmative action. Vargas talks to a white student with a 3.8 grade point average in high school who now goes to a community college; she and her mother are convinced that racial minorities get the edge in col-

lege scholarships and admissions. "I feel like I'm being discriminated against," she said. Attitudes hidden beneath the surface are revealed when Vargas talks to the white student who goes to a black college and some of his friends. A white Italian-American from Brooklyn's Bensonhurst neighborhood is angered by many of the Asians who moved into his neighborhood not wanting to help with a block party until it was pointed out that how his ancestors were looked down upon generations earlier. Vargas is a facilitator who poses questions throughout the film. His eyebrow is a character of its own, each exaggerated lift conveying

skepticism or surprise. "Part of our job with this special is to really create the space to have an honest dialogue," he said, "and I think we achieved that." Some critics have pounced on MTV before seeing the documentary. Rush Limbaugh's website proclaims, "MTV Documentary Shames White Youth." The conservative Breitbart news service headlined a story, "Dear Morons: You are Paying for an Illegal Alien's MTV White-Shaming Film." The "paying for" reference alludes to cable subscribers being required to pay for MTV as part of their service even if they don't necessarily want the network. "So this is a documentary produced by an illegal immigrant that's going to run starting July 22nd on MTV on the problems white people have caused in America," Limbaugh said on his show last week. "Everybody's shaking their head in there, 'Oh, this is horrible, this is terrible.' Yeah, it is, but nobody is going to do anything about it." "If you see the young people in that film, I think every one of them, because it was done in a respectful way, feels like they came away with a deeper understanding of their community and different people," he said. "It enabled them to walk in their shoes." □

Associated Press

California water district OKs Tom Selleck's settlement offer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — A Southern California water district voted Wednesday night to accept Tom Selleck's offer of more than \$21,000 to settle a lawsuit accusing the "Magnum, P.I." star of taking water he wasn't entitled to for his 60-acre ranch. The vote, taken during a closed session, was 3-0 with two members of the Calleguas Municipal Water District's board of directors absent. The district, which provides

water to Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and several other Ventura County cities, sued Selleck and his wife earlier this month after officials said a private investigator discovered a tanker truck bound for their ranch was regularly filling up at a Calleguas fire hydrant. The board's acting president, Thomas Slosson, said state and local law prohibits taking water outside a district's boundaries. The ranch, in nearby Westlake Village, is just outside the Calleguas area.

"Underpinning these laws is the concept of basic fairness," Slosson said after the closed-door vote. "That is, residents and businesses within the district - the rightful users of district water — paid for the construction, maintenance and operation of the public works necessary to meet their water needs, not those of other landowners outside Calleguas' legal boundaries." A representative for Selleck did not immediately respond to an email seeking



This March 21, 2012, file photo Actor Tom Selleck poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

comment. Slosson said Selleck has agreed to pay the district

\$21,685.55, which covers the cost of hiring the private investigator. □

Death Business Expands Into Hosting Weddings, Events

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Danessa Molinder entered the courtyard wearing a white dress and matching veil. Her groom waited at the other end, in front of decorative doors and lattice work that blocked the view of a nearby cemetery with 73,000 graves.

Molinder's June wedding was one of more than 50 that will be hosted this year at a \$10 million events center run by the Washington

home operators say they're being squeezed as more people favor simpler, less expensive funeral services. Their businesses also are being pressured by the growing popularity of cremations, which can bring in less than half the revenue of a traditional casket burial. Cremations are expected to become the most common form of body disposition nationally in a few years, according to the Cremation Association of North America.

tional Funeral Directors Association survey last year said they built a community center to host other events. That's up from 6 percent in 2011.

"As a business, we need to find ways to keep growing," said Bruce Buchanan, a member of the Indianapolis cemetery association's board and owner of a funeral home business.

Younger generations are growing up without the same stigma toward death that their parents and

He said that theory comes with a caveat: The site should have some separation between the wedding and funeral businesses, because there's a cultural taboo against mixing death too closely with weddings, which often are about birth and the starting of families. Chelsey Lesnick picked a suburban Cleveland funeral home that her grandparents opened in 1949 as the site for her nuptials last March.

The home's second-floor

flood damaged his funeral home. His Cedar Rapids, Iowa, business now runs three wedding venues and two locations that can host weddings and funerals. It also manages a golf course and runs a farmer's market. Non-funeral related events still amount to only about 20 percent of total revenue for Linn's business.

But the versatility helps with his main line of work. Even when people are looking into holding services for a deceased loved one, they're opting more for celebrations of life filled with slide shows, food and alcohol, instead of a traditional viewing and service that stretches out over a few days.

"I don't think I've coordinated a (traditional) funeral in a long time because they're depressing things," he said.

Events at the Community Life Center in Indianapolis account for only about 5 percent of the Washington Park Cemetery Association's total revenue.

The center's wedding business didn't really take off until four or five years ago. Now, it's booked nearly every weekend this summer for weddings and is taking 2016 reservations.

"The words I love to hear, and I hear them all the time, is, 'I didn't know you could do this,'" said Buchanan, the cemetery association board member.

Peak rental rates for the Community Life Center approach \$4,000.

That is less than half the average rate of \$9,837 in Indiana, according to the wedding planning website TheKnot.com.

Molinder, the Indianapolis, bride, said the center's rates were comparable to other venues they considered.

The center grabbed her attention in part because it was easy for her guests to reach and could host both the ceremony and reception. That convenience helped the 250 people who attended her wedding dodge rain that had been brewing in the gray clouds overhead. □



Guests gather in the rotunda as they wait for the wedding of Danessa Molinder and Billy Castrodale at the Community Life Center, in Indianapolis. The somewhat ironically named Community Life Center sits on cemetery land near a funeral home. Businesses that once focused almost entirely on honoring the dead are now open to an array of events as they seek to add revenue.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Park East Cemetery Association in Indianapolis. The somewhat ironically named Community Life Center sits on cemetery land near a funeral home and also has hosted a prom, community banquets and even breakfasts with Santa.

"It's such a beautiful building," Molinder said. "That's what really drew us to it." Funeral homes aren't just for funerals anymore. Businesses that once focused almost entirely on honoring the dead are now open to an array of events as they seek to add revenue.

Cemetery and funeral

home operators also say there's a need in their communities for locations that can host weddings or other big events, and people are no longer hung up on their main business.

Declining membership in churches and civic organizations also may be boosting demand for nontraditional venues for weddings and receptions.

As a result, funeral homes and cemeteries nationwide have been marketing their properties for an array of uses. Nearly 10 percent of 280 respondents to a Na-

grandparents had, said Mike Nicodemus, a vice president with the National Funeral Directors Association.

"People aren't as religious as they once were ... and their attitudes toward death are changing," he said.

"Funeral homes were seen for one reason: to have a funeral. Now they're being used for all kinds of things." That versatility might be appealing to couples who need a place to host their big day but aren't affiliated with a religion, said Stephen Prothero, a Boston University religion professor.

reception center — not the funeral site downstairs — hosted the service and the party afterward for about 50 people. Lesnick, 24, said the site didn't feel like a "house of death or a place of mourning."

"It felt like a place of love and just bright happy joy on that day, it really did," she said.

Despite their growing openness to holding various events, funeral directors and cemetery executives say they haven't replaced their main business.

Matt Linn built a multi-use facility in 2008 after a